

Pakistan arrests suspected blast financier

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani investigators have arrested a man who is believed to have financed the bombing that destroyed the Egyptian embassy here last month, Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar said Sunday. He said the man, whom he did not identify, was arrested in the frontier with Afghanistan, indicating he may have been trying to slip across the border. The minister, who made the disclosure in the National Assembly, did not say when the arrest was made nor gave other details. Officials later described the arrest as a breakthrough in the probe into the Nov. 19 blast that killed 17 people and injured 60. The minister also said the authorities were trying to identify a victim of the bombing whose mangled body is lying at a mortuary in Islamabad. The investigation is being assisted by experts from Egypt and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mr. Babar said the FBI team was here only for the "limited" purpose of investigating the explosives used in the bombing. "They are sending the evidence regarding the explosive to the United States for analysis because in Pakistan we do not have the necessary expertise," he said.

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Palestinian police begin Bethlehem deployment

1 million registered for self-rule elections

BETHLEHEM (Agencies) — Jubilant Palestinians chanted "we don't want to see the Zionists anymore" as they welcomed a first unit of Palestinian police to the Bethlehem area on Sunday in advance of an Israeli pullout this month.

A dozen Palestinian police officers took up their posts at an Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) liaison office on the outskirts of the West Bank city as a local boy scout band played and hundreds of residents cheered.

"(PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat will come and visit Bethlehem soon and he will share in the Christmas festivities," Ziad Al Atrash, a Palestinian officer in the liaison bureau, told the crowd.

"I ask you to be calm so we can have peace between us and our neighbours. This is the fruit of peace," he added. Bethlehem is the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ. Israeli soldiers are due to quit the city on Dec. 18.

"It will be the first Christmas celebration under Palestinian authority in almost 30 years," Mr. Atrash said.

In Ramallah, the head of the Palestinian electoral com-

mission said meanwhile more than a million Palestinians had registered to vote for historic first elections on Jan. 20.

"We can say from now on that we have a voting list," Saeb Erakat told a news conference. "We never had it before."

Dr. Erakat, who is also local government minister, said "over one million potential voters have registered for the first Palestinian election."

The exact number of registered voters in the Gaza Strip and West Bank will be released in the next few days.

Some 71,000 Palestinians have registered in East Jerusalem but that number should increase, said Dr. Erakat, head of the Palestinian central electoral commission.

Low voter registration in East Jerusalem has concerned Palestinian officials because it could bolster Israel's claim to the Holy City as its undivided capital.

About 350,000 Palestinians registered in the Gaza Strip, Osama Abu Safiyeh, election coordinator for the area, told local newspapers.

The voter registration campaign ended Saturday but Palestinians will still be able to register over the next 10

days, officials said. A final voter registration list is to be published on Dec. 30 and on the same day, a 22-day election campaign will begin.

Nominations for candidates will begin Dec. 10 and run until Dec. 21. The final candidates list will also be published on Dec. 30.

"There is nothing in the electoral law or agreement with the Israeli side that prevents any Palestinian from participating as a candidate," Dr. Erakat said, responding to charges that some groups were being excluded.

Dr. Erakat also said that an additional seat is being added to the autonomy council to include Palestinian Christian representatives, so the body will now have a total of 83 members. Voters will also elect a president of the executive council.

At the liaison office, in Bethlehem, Palestinian policemen hoisted a Palestinian flag next to an Israeli one and put up a picture of Mr. Arafat.

A group of about 25 Palestinian policemen also deployed on Sunday for the first time in Nablus, the biggest Palestinian city in the West Bank, witnesses said.



His Majesty King Hussein speaks with a staff member of the Hashemiyeh University during a tour of the university after he formally launched the institution on Sunday (Petra photo)

King formally launches Hashemiyeh University

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Hashemiyeh University in Zarqa, marking the official opening of the university, which this year admitted 560 students at its faculties of science, art, economy and administrative and educational sciences.

The King inspected the various sections of the university, including the laboratories, library, instruction rooms and was briefed on them by the respective section heads.

In a statement to the press, King Hussein said the inauguration of the Hashemiyeh University "is a new starting point on the path of the promising future that we are all working for."

The King said he pinned great hopes on the university's contribution to Jordan and Jordanians.

Upon arrival at the university campus, King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, was received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, military advisor His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, cultural

advisor His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and senior civil and military officials.

Addressing the ceremony, head of the Royal Commission for Hashemiyeh University Mudar thanked King Hussein for his patronage of the opening ceremony and his continuous support for the university.

He reviewed the phases and progress of work since a Royal Decree was issued on June 1991 establishing the Royal Commission for the Hashemiyeh University.

Mr. Badran also reviewed the university's message, "which focuses on interaction with local community and helping address local community needs in the areas of education, culture, environment, agriculture, industry and health."

Mr. Badran said work had been divided into two stages: the first stage cost JD 20 million. He said the commission had been able, through its own efforts and endeavours, to find some funding sources that will supplement the eight per cent of customs duties and additional

taxes allotted to the university by the government.

Also addressing the ceremony was Mohammad Hamdan, the university president, who said the university would accommodate some 12,000 students once the second and final stage was completed. He said 7,000 students from Zarqa Governorate were now attending universities in the various parts of the Kingdom.

He reviewed the university's plans to play an active role in serving the local communities, through undertaking field studies and surveys on community problems and concerns.

Minister of Higher Education Rafea Al Saud told Petra the inauguration of the Hashemiyeh University brings to five the number of official universities, in addition to Al al Bayt University, which is an official Islamic university, nine national universities and two university colleges awarding bachelor degrees. Dr. Saud added that more than 70,000 students were attending state universities in Jordan, including 9,000 non-Jordanian students.

King welcomes UAE leader's initiative for Arab reconciliation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday welcomed a call by United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan for Arab reconciliation.

In comments carried by UAE television, King Hussein described Sheikh Zayed's initiative as good and timely, and voiced hope that it would be translated into "reality in the life of the Arab Nation."

King Hussein said there might be some differences in the views of Arab leaders. However, he stressed the need for inter-Arab meetings and continuous contacts among Arab leaders to crystallise common convictions that will help serve Arab interests.

Sheikh Zayed's call was made in a statement Saturday marking the 24 years of the establishment of the UAE as a result of the merger of seven Gulf emirates, the longest unity in modern Arab history.

The UAE president said the Arab people were hopeful that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Muscat opening on Monday would achieve Arab reconciliation and forgiveness.

Asked to comment on the UAE's national day anniversary, King Hussein



Sheikh Zayed Al Nahayan

seemingly expressed his best wishes to Sheikh Zayed and the people of UAE. He said the UAE had achieved a lot under the leadership of Sheikh Zayed and other UAE leaders. He wished the UAE leadership every success and the people of UAE further progress and prosperity.

GCC leaders at the three-day Muscat summit will also aim, among other things (see page 2), for a joint common stand on Iraq, after Sheikh Zayed's call in October for a lifting of the embargo on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Clinton orders troops to Bosnia to enforce Dayton peace accord

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the deployment of 700 American troops to Bosnia on Sunday as part of a NATO peacekeeping force and dismissed objections from Serb hardliners to a peace accord.

Mr. Clinton said the advance contingent would do "preparatory work" to clear the way for the arrival of a 50,000-strong North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) force charged with policing the peace deal ending four years of war in former Yugoslavia.

"Those people will be going into the area over the next couple of days," Mr. Clinton told a news conference in Madrid.

Mr. Clinton's move marks the first substantial commitment of American ground troops to Bosnia, though U.S. warplanes played the leading role in NATO air action over Bosnia over the past three years.

Washington had refused to send U.S. troops to ex-Yugoslavia until the warring

factions agreed a peace accord.

In Naples, Italy, NATO said advance troops of the peace implementation force (IFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina will leave NATO's southern command base for Zagreb, capital of Croatia, Tuesday or Wednesday.

A statement from alliance headquarters said personnel would begin deploying to Zagreb next week following NATO's decision Friday to authorise the deployment of a 2,600-strong enabling force to pave the way for the full implementation force to move into Bosnia.

The enabling force will comprise technical and logistics staff tasked with setting up communications links establishing headquarters and preparing infrastructure so that the main NATO body of 60,000 troops, backed up by an estimated 40,000 support staff, can deploy speedily once a definitive peace accord is signed.

Bosnian Serb hardliners, including political leader Radovan Karadzic and army commander Ratko Mladic, have condemned the U.S.-brokered peace accord, demanding fresh negotiations to divide the capital Sarajevo. Mr. Clinton played down the threat posed by Mr. Mladic and other hardliners, saying Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic — patron of the separatist Serbs — had committed himself to the peace deal.

"When you make a peace agreement, not everybody is happy with it," Mr. Clinton said, underlining that General Mladic was not one of the participants in the peace talks which concluded last month in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Clinton said all three Bosnian factions — Serbs, Croats and Muslims — were dissatisfied with aspects of the accord.

But he said Mr. Milosevic, who negotiated on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs, "made strong commitments which he will have to fulfill to secure the support of the Bosnian Serb leaders for this agreement."

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Millon leaves Jordan after affirming French interest in strengthening ties

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Defence Minister Charles Millon ended a two-day visit to Jordan on Sunday after affirming his country's keen interest in consolidating relations with the Kingdom and in extending military assistance to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

An agreement on military cooperation that Mr. Millon signed with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday includes provisions for supply of armaments within a broad outline of bilateral relations in defence affairs, and an annex contains a separate protocol on joint military exercises and training.

Addressing a press conference shortly before his departure, Mr. Millon said the agreement formalised "continued consultations between the two countries on various aspects of military cooperation."

Answering questions, he said Jordan and France were not discussing an "upgrading" of the Kingdom's 31 French-built Mirage F-1 fighters but "the upkeep and maintenance" of the warplanes.

"As the country which supplied the planes in the first place, it is only natural that we have a concern over their

upkeep and maintenance," said Mr. Millon without elaboration.

The French defence minister, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Sharif Zeid and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai on Saturday, visited the Royal Jordanian Air Force on Sunday for a first-hand review of the air force's needs.

Mr. Millon noted that Jordan was the first Middle Eastern country that he was visiting as French defence minister and said it reflected "our keen interest in building relations with Jordan."

"We attach high esteem to Jordan's contribution to the security and stability of the region and its role in the peace process," said the minister.

He explained that the focus given to modernising Jordan's self-defence abilities stemmed from the general principle that "it is essential to have a balance of power among the partners to peace so that they would respect peace."

"A balance of power is also needed to enhance confidence" among the parties, he added.

Mr. Millon said his talks with the King dealt with the Middle East peace process, Iraq, efforts for peace in the former Yugoslavia and other

regional and international issues as well as Jordanian-French relations.

On Iraq, he reiterated that the Baghdad government had to abide by and fulfill all requirements spelled out in the United Nations resolutions related to the Gulf crisis sparked by its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. At the same time, he said, France also appreciated that the people of Iraq were suffering as a result of the sweeping international sanctions imposed on their country.

"It is unacceptable that the people of Iraq pay the price for the mistake of their leaders," Mr. Millon said.

France "stands ready to help" Iraq meet the "humanitarian needs" of to alleviate "the unbearable suffering" of the Iraqi people, he said in what was seen as indirect call on Baghdad to accept a U.N.-offered limited sale of Iraqi oil to raise funds for the country to import food and medicine. Baghdad has rejected the offer saying the terms of the sale infringed on Iraq's sovereignty.

In reply to a question on criticism levelled by a French army general in Sarajevo against the U.S.-brokered peace agreement among the leaders of ex-Yugoslavia, Mr. Millon reaffirmed that the

(Continued on page 7)

Egyptian opposition vows to secure foothold in second-round elections

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian opposition vowed Sunday to overcome its first round whitewash in general elections by winning a foothold in parliament in this week's run-offs.

One of the opposition parties, Wafd, threatened to boycott run-off to protest government "fraud" in the first round.

"Wafd is studying the possibility of boycotting the second round and will come to a decision Monday or Tuesday," the liberal party's second in command, Ibrahim Jessaki Abazam, told a press conference.

Another Wafd official told AFP that the party's leader "wad Serragaddin, did not support a boycott."

"He is not in favour of this alternative because he still hopes that a dozen Wafd candidates can win seats," Youssef Zaki said.

But Mr. Abaza said: "Even if the government allows the opposition to win some seats in the poll, it will be no compensation because all the standard-bearers were eliminated in the first round."

"Even if I think none of our candidates will be elected in the second round because

of the cheating we have no other choice before God and the people to accomplish our duty," Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna, the son of the founder of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and a first round loser, told AFP.

Mamoun Al Hodeiby, Brotherhood spokesman, said: "Despite the massive arrests in our ranks since the start of the year, we remain the main opposition force with 27 candidates still in the running."

Mustafa Bakri, one of two candidates still in the poll for the Ahrar pro-Islamist party, vowed that "after the setbacks in the first round due to vote rigging, the opposition must fight even harder to be heard in parliament."

"Opposition deputies will not be able to adopt or block legislation but will be able to denounce the government's practices," said Hamdi Sabahi, from the left-wing Nasserist party.

An independent monitoring group said the first-round elections were rigged and clearly biased towards the ruling party.

The Egyptian electoral monitoring committee listed in a faxed statement instances of gross violations in cam-

paigning for and during Wednesday's poll, joining the opposition parties which have lambasted the elections and cried foul play.

"The electoral campaign for 1995 began with encouraging promises until voting day, which was rife with violations, some of them flagrant and very severe," the group said.

On Saturday, the Interior Ministry, which for months has joined the government in promising elections of unprecedented fairness, said President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) had won 124 out of 137 seats so far decided.

It said the opposition parties, most of which boycotted the last elections in 1990, failed to win a single seat and independents took 13 seats.

A second round poll will be held on Wednesday to determine who will gain the remaining 307 seats at stake.

"We have recommended that magistrates be present in all polling stations, that people delegated by candidates receive official permission to act as scrutineers and that the operations be fair," the monitoring committee said in a statement.

Russia proposes Mideast security system

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who is visiting Israel, has proposed a regional security system for the Middle East and offered to help set it up, Itar-Tass news agency reported on Sunday.

"Russia is proposing to the countries of the Middle East and the Gulf the creation of a regional security system and is ready to provide help on this question," Tass said.

It gave no other details. Mr. Grachev, whose visit

to Israel is the first by a Russian defence minister, said Moscow was pursuing a balanced policy in the Middle East by maintaining military ties with Arab countries as well as with Israel.

On Friday, he signed a military cooperation agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Tass reported that Mr. Grachev said the pact reflected Russia's interest in Israel's national security system and in an exchange of

views between the two countries' specialists in military theory. There were also opportunities for cooperation on the design and modernisation of weapons.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posvalynsk said on Saturday in Beirut that the agreement with Israel did not mean Moscow was abandoning ties with Syria, with whom Israel is still formally at war, or with other Arab countries.

Egyptian foreign Minister

Amr Musa criticised the agreement signed by Israel and Russia, saying it did not serve regional peace.

"Any security scenario for the region that does not take peace into consideration is limited," Mr. Musa told a Cairo news conference. "This treaty has no relation to peace."

Israel Radio reported that under the accord, Israel would help upgrade weapons used by Russia and Russian weapons used by other coun-

tries. It also includes visits by army officers but gave no further details.

Mr. Musa said that no non-Middle Eastern power could impose its view on security on the region and that the area's status would not be characterised by treaties signed between a neighbouring country and an external power.

Mr. Grachev meanwhile flew in an Israeli helicopter over the Golan Heights, military officials said.

Terrorism, Iraq high on GCC's agenda in Muscat

MUSCAT (AFP) — The fight against terrorism after the Riyadh car-bombing and the U.N. embargo on Iraq are expected to dominate the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which opens Monday in the Omani capital.

The meeting takes place with speculation surrounding the health of Saudi ruler King Fahd, who has been in hospital since Thursday.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told reporters on arrival here that the monarch was in good health and would be able to leave hospital. But a Gulf Arab diplomat said he had suffered a blood clot on the brain and had been advised to rest, thus missing the GCC annual gathering for the first time.

The Saudi authorities are still hunting for the perpetrators of the Nov. 13 attack on U.S. military offices that killed five Americans and two Indians.

The kingdom's partners in the GCC — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — immediately condemned the bombing claimed by militants demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Gulf interior ministers, viewing such attacks as a threat to the whole region, have since decided to step up the cooperation — already close — between their police forces.

They acknowledged that

"violence, terrorism, extremism and the spread of drugs are on the increase" and that organised crime was beginning to take root in the conservative monarchies.

The issues of the terrorism and extremism have figured prominently in GCC summits since the 1991 Gulf war, which evicted Iraq from Kuwait after seven months of occupation.

GCC leaders at the three-day Muscat summit will also aim for a joint common on Iraq, after UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan's call in October for a lifting of the embargo on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Gulf Arab states have long maintained Iraq must comply with all U.N. resolutions before the crippling sanctions are lifted, but Sheikh Zayed laid down no such conditions in his call.

But Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, said in an interview Friday that all GCC states agreed on Iraq implementing the U.N. resolutions, on maintaining its territorial integrity, and easing the hardships of its population.

Qatar and Oman were seen as more favourable to easing the sanctions before the defection to Jordan of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, General Hussein Kamel, in August.

The architect of Iraq's weapons programmes said

the leadership had been planning a new invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

His defection also sparked a confession from Baghdad that it had armed missiles with biological and chemical weapons before the August 1990 invasion, triggering fear and anger in the Gulf states.

Reader adds: Gulf Arab border problems will not be discussed at the GCC summit, an Omani government official said.

Last December's summit of the GCC decided to try to resolve all regional border issues by this year's summit.

"The border issues between the member states will not be discussed at the summit," Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdulrahman told reporters at the end of a meeting of GCC foreign ministers.

"All the issues to be raised at the summit have been finalised," he said.

So far this year, Saudi Arabia has signed border deals with Oman, Yemen and the UAE and has held talks on demarcating a sea border with Kuwait.

Qatar has border disputes with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

In October Qatar's Sheikh Hamad called on his GCC allies to give urgent attention to border problems which he said were "time bombs" threatening the region.

Princess Basma meets team from int'l federation for deaf

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday received a delegation representing the International Federation for the Deaf currently on a visit to Jordan.

Praising cooperation between the federation and Jordanian organisations, Princess Basma briefed the visiting delegation on the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) and its role in the field of special education.

The Princess said QAF

established three special education centres in the cities of Amman, Zarqa and Karak, noting that a section at the fund was established to offer counselling to governmental and non-governmental organisations in the field.

The meeting was attended by QAF Executive Director Awad Bashir and senior Ministry of Social Development officials.

In another development, Princess Basma opened the annual charity bazaar of

the Syrian Charity Society to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday.

The society's deputy director, George Maseri, delivered an address in his name and on behalf of the Syrian community in Jordan and expressed his best wishes to the King on his birthday.

Princess Basma, who toured the various sections of the bazaar and the society, was presented with the society's shield in appreciation of her efforts.

Amman hosts workshop on economy reporting in Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A specialist work on reporting on economy, business and finance concluded here Saturday with an emphasis that focused coverage and analysis of economic issues and monetary policies are a must in the Middle East as the region is slowly opening up in the wake of the breakthroughs in the Arab-Israeli peace process and there should be more interaction among the journalists of the region.

Broadcast and print media journalists from seven Middle Eastern countries and experts from Europe huddled together in Amman and Aqaba for one week, discussing the status of media coverage of economy, business and finance in the region and what needs to be done to improve the quality of reporting.

The workshop, the latest in a series held as part of Med-Media, a programme of the European Union (EU), also aimed at facilitating contacts among journalists from the region "for networking among themselves," said Tudor Lomas, director of the project.

Mr. Lomas cited as an example the possibility of a foreign television station cooperating with Jordan Television when it was unable to send its own equipment to Amman for the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North African (MENA) economic summit. "If there was prior networking, the station could have easily asked JTV for help and the concerned correspondent could have done the job and perhaps one-third the cost involved," he pointed out.

Discussed during the workshop were issues such as the importance of economic and business reporting in the Eastern Mediterranean, European media coverage of economy and business, problems facing journalists in the Islamic World and coverage of the MENA economic conference.

Attending the event were journalists from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Cyprus, Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon along with media experts from the Financial Times Television of Britain, European Business of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Middle East Business Monitor and Today newspaper.

One of the overriding factors in all the deliberations of the workshop was the limitation imposed on Arab media on covering economy and business issues, some of which could be regarded as highly sensitive to governments and as such taboo for the local press. European experts outlined some of the means through which such taboos could be circumvented while remaining strictly within the confines, some of them self-imposed and others unwritten but tacitly enforced by the state.

The first two days of the workshop covered a comparison of reporting business and economic issues in both European and Eastern Mediterranean countries such as specialist programming and newspaper sections, expert correspondents, personal finance, company news, international comparisons, official statistics, stock markets, financial public relations etc.

The second half of the

event focused on media coverage of the MENA summit and how the event was handled in the media of the countries of the participants in Amman workshop.

The workshop also included field trips to the Jordan Valley, Aqaba, Eilat and Tabat and briefings by Jordanian experts on plans to develop the valley and the Gulf of Aqaba.

Among the many questions raised during the plenary sessions and focused workshops on specific issues were how to establish sources of information and analysis and means to verify and establish the accuracy of information and gaining familiarity with figures, including state budgets.

"It was a very good exercise and one of the many steps needed to improve the quality of reporting on economy and business in the Middle East," said Mr. Lomas, who took over organisation and chairman of the so-called Med Media Hilversum project in January this year.

Participating in strength in the Amman workshop were journalists from the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Jordan radio and television. Others came from newspapers, state news agencies and television and radio journalists from the participating countries.

Apart from Mr. Lomas, other European experts attending the event were Colin Chapman from Financial Times Television, Rodney Smith from European Business BBC World Service, John Roberts from Middle East Business Monitor and George Campbell from Today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

League backs Yemen in dispute with Eritrea

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League secretariat said on Sunday it supported Yemen's claim to two Red Sea islands at the centre of a territorial dispute between Yemen and Eritrea. Yemen and Eritrea started talks on the dispute in Yemsa last month after an encounter on the islands between Yemeni and Eritrean forces. The islands, Greater and Lesser Hanish, are in the Red Sea, slightly closer to the Arabian Peninsula than to Africa. An Arab League statement said: "The secretariat... is following with extreme concern news it has received on Yemeni sovereignty over the islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish. The secretariat expresses its support and backing for the position of the Republic of Yemen in insisting on its borders and waters and the islands that belong to it... It calls on the Republic of Eritrea to overcome this problem and solve it in the framework of historic relations."

Jihad chief lives in luxury Swiss villa — Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The leader of the militant Jihad group lives in a luxury Swiss villa and has \$30 million in his bank account, a government daily claimed Sunday. The information on Ayman Al Zawahiri, a 44-year-old doctor, was given to Egyptian intelligence by one of his aides who was recently arrested in Egypt, the daily Rose Al Yousef reported. Mr. Zawahiri has lived a sumptuous lifestyle with his wife since leaving Pakistan at the start of the 1990s and now lives in a Swiss villa near the French border, it said. Switzerland has denied Egyptian claims that it granted Mr. Zawahiri exile.

Palestinian gets 5 years in jail for leaving Jericho

JERICHO (AFP) — A Black Panther member who ignored an Israeli ban and left the self-ruled enclave of Jericho has been jailed for five years with hard labour by a Palestinian court, officials said Sunday. Samir Zakaneh, 21, was wanted by Israeli security services for killing several suspected Palestinian collaborators after the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy. The Black Panthers is an armed wing of the Fatah faction. Despite being barred from leaving Jericho on the West Bank, he recently travelled to the northern town of Jenin after it was handed over on Nov. 13 to Palestinian control. He was spotted on Thursday by Israeli troops in the town of Kabatiya, and arrested by Palestinian police under the terms of an agreement with the Palestinian National Authority. He was brought handcuffed to Jericho where he was sentenced by a state security court.

Troops beat up Palestinian in road clash

HALHUL (AFP) — Israeli soldiers beat a 60-year-old man unconscious when they broke up a Palestinian demonstration against land confiscation on Sunday, Palestinian sources said. Dozens of Palestinians in Halhul, near Hebron, joined the protest aimed at stopping bulldozers clearing land to build a detour around Israeli settlement. Soldiers moved in to break up the demonstration and beat Ahmad Abu Rayan who lost consciousness and was taken to Hebron. Israelis are building dozens of kilometres of roads to allow settlers to bypass Palestinian towns and villages being handed over to Palestinian control under the accord spreading self-rule across the West Bank.

Roads into north Iraq closed to stop cholera

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Two roads leading into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq have been closed to prevent the spread of a cholera epidemic which has killed five people in the region, the official agency INA said Sunday. The roads had been closed because of the cholera outbreak in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah, two of the largest towns in the region. Health officials and the governor of Kirkuk, which is still under the control of Baghdad, have formed a committee to take "necessary measures to stop the spread of the epidemic," INA said. Last week the Ministry of Health said there were 155 cases of cholera in the Sulaymaniyah province, mainly students. U.N. figures show that five people have died in the Halabja area since the beginning of November and 400 other cases have been recorded. The road between Kirkuk and Erbil as well as Kirkuk to Sulaymaniyah have been closed, INA said.

Gunmen strut Nablus streets after kidnap

NABLUS (AFP) — Palestinian gunmen put on a show of force here Sunday firing in the air and ordering traders to close after one of their gangs was kidnapped in a feud, Palestinian said Sunday. Members of the Hassana family kidnapped Muammer Mabruk, 22, late Saturday to avenge the wounding of two of their relatives earlier in the day by members of his gang. One was shot and wounded, the other pistol-whipped on his neck. The gang of self-styled Fatah Hawks has spread terror in the West Bank town since March, killing at least three people and wounding around 30. Usually they accuse their targets of leading immoral lifestyle.

Djibouti president has tests in Paris

PARIS (R) — Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon is undergoing tests in a Paris military hospital after his evacuation from the Francophone summit in Cotonou and there is no cause for concern, the hospital said on Sunday. Mr. Hassan Gouled, reelected to a fourth six-year term in May 1993, was flown to Paris on Saturday after falling ill in Cotonou, the main city in the West African state of Benin, where he had travelled to attend the summit of French-speaking countries. "There is no cause for concern about the state of health of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon," the Val-de-Grace military hospital said in a statement, adding: "The evacuation took place without incident."

Philippines probes maid's 'suicide'

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Philippine embassy said Sunday it hoped to investigate the death of a young Filipina maid who was said to have committed suicide by drinking poison.

"We are pressing the case further because her employer only reported her death last month when (in fact) she died in September," Philippine Consul Sahid Glang told AFP.

Mr. Glang said he and other officials visited Ana Aplacador, who is 18 years old, according to press reports, in the morgue where a death certificate said she had died of poisoning from an insecticide or a chemical fertiliser.

"The two sisters of the deceased (who also work in Kuwait) have doubts about the allegation she committed suicide," Mr. Glang added.

The Philippine embassy has asked Aplacador's parents in the Philippines for power of attorney in order to have the case reopened. In the meantime, it has asked the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry for a report on the circumstances of her death and asked for a new autopsy, Mr. Glang said.

The Arab Times newspaper reported that Aplacador's friends tried to call her at work after they had lost contact with her in late August and early September.

"The employer would answer the phone and make up all excuses that she's away on an errand or busy with her chores," an unidentified source told the Arab Times.

"The employer further told the callers not to disturb their maid, angrily suggesting police action if they perse-

vered," the source said.

"An early October visit to the household likewise proved futile when a new Asian servant employed in the same house said that he never saw or knew any Filipina working for his sponsor," the source added.

Friends discovered she had died in November after they contacted the police in Al-Qurain neighbourhood, the Arab Times said.

More than 200,000 Asian nationals including 50,000 Filipinas work as domestic helpers in Kuwait.

Thousands of Asian maids quit their jobs every year in Kuwait and other Gulf Arab countries, complaining of abuse by their employers. Complaints include non-payment of salaries, verbal abuse, beatings, sexual harassment and rape.

Palestinians take first steps towards adopting democracy

KHAN YUNIS (AFP) — Hisham Kalab has spent the last few months spreading the word of democracy in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

The teacher-turned peace activist says he represents no political party or platform.

"I want my people to know what it means to be part of a democracy," said Mr. Kalab, whose group, Interns for Peace, has been working to get Palestinians registered to vote for an historic first election set for Jan. 20.

"This is a right that they have been waiting generations for, but many of them do not know what an election is," he said.

More are learning, however, as Palestinians took a major step toward self-rule on Saturday. They completed a month-long registration campaign that is expected

draw up to 1.2 million eligible voters.

About 900,000 Palestinians had registered in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the latest tally released earlier this week, and final figures were due on Sunday.

The end of voter registration sets the stage for a short three-week campaign to elect 82 members of the executive authority and the president of the executive council. They will be the government of the Palestinian autonomous areas.

Many potential candidates have already been out garnering voter support.

"The candidates who plan to run are making sure people in their areas are registered to vote," said Mohammad Kalab, director of the Khan Yunis electoral

district in the southern Gaza Strip.

The area has been a stronghold of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which has violently opposed the Palestinian autonomy deal with Israel. The militant group has yet to say whether it will present candidates in the election.

But Mohammad Kalab says many Palestinians have moved past the stage of revolution and want to set up a democratic government and enjoy basic human rights.

"This is the first chance for my people to choose freely," he said. "They have suffered in the past, and are suffering now. But I want them to be free."

Mohammad Kalab admits he is a supporter of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's

Fatah faction, but says he expects them to stay on the course of democracy and improve the bleak living conditions of most Palestinians.

"In the past I was concerned about ending the (Israeli) occupation, so I supported Fatah," said the university teacher, who quit his job to oversee the electoral process in his district.

"But now there is a change, I am concerned about my people and building a democracy," he said. "I will not support (Fatah) if they do not make progress."

Many Palestinians and foreign election observers believe Mr. Arafat and Fatah will benefit from the short election campaign, which is due to begin near the end of December when the final voter registration list is published.

Mr. Arafat has long been the standard bearer for the Palestinian struggle and he pushed through the autonomy agreement, which resulted in Israel withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May 1994, as well as from large areas of the West Bank by the end of this month.

Fatah is also the most organised and well-financed political force in Palestinian society, and Mr. Arafat's picture adorns the walls of many homes and businesses in the Gaza Strip.

"It's a good thing for Arafat that the election campaign is so short," said Lieven Van Mele, a Belgian election observer with the European Union mission in Gaza.

Mr. Van Mele said the short period does not give other parties and candidates time to organise and raise money.

Drivas Christos, a Greek observer, said the registration process has gone smoothly but the election cannot be compared to anything in a more developed democracy.

"Even in organised countries, you cannot prepare elections in two months," he said.

Hisham Kalab, whose group has been teaching courses on democratic procedure, admits the campaign time is short but says the vote should not be delayed.

"The elections will bind my people together and teach us how to live as a community — that is democracy," he said. "We will make further progress in the next elections."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Shelly Duval's Bedtime Stories
14:30 Rickie Rich
14:45 Hey Dad
15:05 Doc — Discover Magazine
16:00 The Adventures of the Black Stallion
16:30 Sky Trackers
17:00 Children's programme — Fractal
17:30 Madane Le Proviseur
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Nimbus
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Mc Hale's Navy
20:00 Inventions
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:35 Anna
23:15 The American Chart Show
23:59 New York Undercover

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:15 Sunrise
11:25 Dhuhr
14:14 Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 628266
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625276
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Lutheran Day School Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

at different altitude and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 5/17
Aqaba 13 / 23
Deserts 3 / 18
Jordan Valley 14 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 17, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawalidh 736011
Dr. Fakher Bebeisi 663412
Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 847289
Dr. Osama Al Hussini 775253
Piras pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 775356
Al Asena pharmacy 670555
Nairouki pharmacy 623672
Al Saham pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

Nairouki pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Oasau 281484
Alquda pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Amin Abul Rab 982393
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

REPAIRS
Abdali Telephone Repairs 611101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200
AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ansa 642816
Aklich Maternity, J. Ansa 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Fakhtine, Shamsani 607071
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845345
Al-Musabir Hospital 667227/7
Al-Islami, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Izzan, Al-Mohajireen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Arney, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

FOOD CONTROL CENTRE 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 996390
Public Security Department 689321
Water and Sewerage Complaints 661176
Amman Municipality Complaints 897467
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Great Catholic Hospital (02)27221
Jal Nufusa Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:28 Sarus (RJ)
08:32 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)

09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok (RJ)

06:50 Beirut, London (BA)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
18:40 Cairo (MS)
19:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
19:50 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Kiev (6U)
08:40 London (BA)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Beirut, Athens (OA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Khartoum (SD)
09:50 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Kiev (6U)
15:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)
23:05 London (BA)
01:20 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Khartoum (SD)
09:50 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Kiev (6U)
15:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)
23:05 London (BA)
01:20 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:50 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammur) 620
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 280/200
Cauliflower 160/120
Cucumbers (large) 200/120
Cucumbers (small) 340/250
Eggplant 180/120
Garlic 720/600
Grape Fruit 230/150
Lemon 250/150
Marrow (large) 180/120
Marrow (small) 280/200
Olives 630/500
Onion (green) 220/150
Onion (dry) 230/150
Orange 480/250
Pepper (hot) 240/120
Pepper (sweet) 240/120
Potato 280/200
Radish 140/80
Spinach 160/100
String Beans 650/500
Tomato 300/200
Tomato 290/200

05:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visits the National Multi-handicapped Welfare Society's Beit Al Amal in Yajouz on the occasion of the International Day of Disabled Persons (photo by Crystal)

Queen joins children in celebrating Day of Disabled Persons

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday celebrated, along with 100 children with multiple handicaps, the International Day of Disabled Persons, at the Beit Al Amal (Home of Hope) in Yajouz.

Beit Al Amal, which is financed and established by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), and opened by Queen Noor five years ago, is unable to cater to more than the 100 children already enrolled in its boarding school and the 50 children in the day care centre, said director of the home, Hanan Abu Shehadeh.

Ms. Shehadeh added that the National Multi-handicapped Welfare Society, a member in the GUVS, intends to construct a new school in Wadi Seer next year to cater to the increased number of handicapped children.

Officials at GUVS, which is responsible for funding 652 voluntary societies in the Kingdom, expressed concern that a lack of funding might affect the quality of care provided for children at Beit Al Amal.

"We cannot afford to hire qualified teachers who

should be specialists in this field," said Mohammed Abu Sabah, director of the Study Department at the GUVS.

Mr. Abu Sabah said that 70 per cent of the teachers working at the school are not qualified to carry out such specialised tasks.

Some of the 34 school teachers employed at Beit Al Amal, complained of the long working hours and low salaries.

"We are paid 80 JD per month with no health insurance," said one teacher who asked not to be identified.

She also added that half an hour's break a day was not enough "to renew our energy, especially because we are also responsible for the children at night."

According to a Royal Court statement, Queen Noor noted that while Jordan is fortunate to have the first and only Occupational Therapy College in the Arab Middle East, the country must establish rehabilitative departments in public and private universities, which would teach speech, physio and occupational therapy, as well as ensure the employment of the graduates in public and private medical institutions.

Another area of attention is early intervention. While specialists who deal with handicapped children stressed that early intervention is extremely important, they added that the registered number of handicapped children in Jordan is actually inaccurate, because many families are reluctant to say they have a handicapped child at home.

In a survey carried out by the GUVS on 600 families, 2400 people, 300 children between the age of one day to six years were handicapped.

"Reaching these children at an early age is important and we can not do it on our own," said president of GUVS, Abdullah Khatib.

Dr. Khatib called on all Jordanian and international organisations to cooperate in forming a five-year plan in which 50,000 handicapped children could be reached all over the Kingdom.

The school, said Ms. Shehadeh, has developed a programme of home service in which teachers can help children with special needs by visiting them in their homes.

"Through this programme the children will not have to leave their homes, because the family environment is

important," she stressed.

The GUVS is in touch with 10,000 handicapped children.

"Reaching these children at home cuts down on expenses from JD 200 to JD 25 per year," said Dr. Khatib.

At the end of her visit, Queen Noor, on behalf of GUVS, presented new buses to the Families and Friends Society of the Disabled, the Mental Health Society, the Society for the Care of the Disabled, and the Jordanian Society for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, all members of GUVS, according to the Royal Court statement.

The International Day of the Disabled was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992 to commemorate the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons and to "promote understanding about disability issues and to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of disabled persons in every aspect of social and economic life."

Queen Noor was received by HRH Princess Majda Ra'ed and Prince Firas Bin Ra'ed and the Minister of Social Development Mrs. Salwa Masri.

Private sector seeks start up to energy, transport projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Sunday separately discussed with ministers of transport, energy and mineral resources plans to allow the Jordanian private sector to implement ministries' projects through cooperation with local, Arab or international investors.

Led by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a, a group of leading businessmen told the two ministers that they were ready to cooperate in revising projects which were proposed during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, and in marketing them at the regional and international levels.

Transport Minister Samir Kassar said his ministry was determined to develop and modernise the country's fleets of trucks and passenger buses and other vehicles and has prepared studies for the implementation of this objective.

One aspect of the plan is to create major overland transport terminals in Amman, Irbid and the Jordan Valley, similar to the only existing terminal of this kind in Aqaba, Mr. Kassar said.

The projects are now awaiting investors funds, he added.

Plans have been made for modernising the facilities of Aqaba port, to enable it to compete with other ports of the region and to cater to the expected increase in maritime operations, the minister said.

The ministry also has projects for building railways in cooperation with the Netherlands, Austria and Italy, Mr. Kassar said.

The plans, he said, initially cover the building of railways linking Amman with Aqaba as well as Amman with the Iraqi and the Syrian borders, in addition to railways linking the Shidieh phosphate mines in southern Jordan with Aqaba.

The ministry also plans to modernise airports at a total cost of JD 60 million over the next five years, the minister said, adding that an American firm is already studying the modernisation of Aqaba Airport.

Mr. Tabba'a and his team called earlier on Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samir Darwazah and discussed private sector-government cooperation in mining, energy and gas production and marketing.

The minister reviewed with Mr. Tabba'a projects submitted to the investors at the Amman economic summit saying these projects also currently await finances from investors.

The JBA, according to Mr. Tabba'a, is currently undertaking measures to secure investments by international businessmen and organisations through its intensive contact with private sector organisations in Arab and foreign countries.

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Ministry urges regional search for solutions to water shortage problems

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Sunday called for inter-Arab and regional cooperation in dealing with water shortages in the Middle East region, saying that Arab states are expected to face acute water shortages by the end of this decade.

The call was made by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat during the opening session of a regional meeting, "The Sixth Arab National Committees for the International Hydrological Programme," attended by Arab states and regional and international organisations.

Delivering the minister's address, Ministry Secretary General Mohammed Bani Hani said Jordan was unable to finance water

schemes from its own resources alone, and is in need of modern technology, financial and technical assistance from advanced nations as well as cooperation with the countries of the region to secure sufficient water resources for its people.

Through its various departments, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is trying to provide sufficient water for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes, the minister said.

The needs of the growing population are placing very great pressures on the ministry's resources, the minister said.

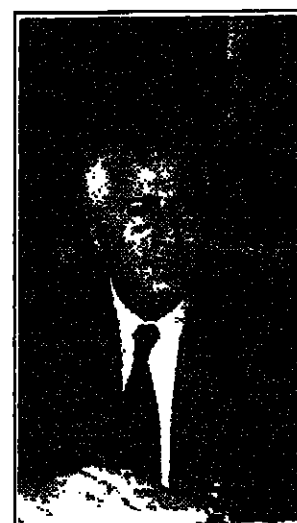
Regional cooperation and assistance from advanced nations and international organisations can help individual coun-

tries deal with the water shortage problem which is likely to become aggravated in the next decade; he added.

Participants in the four-day meeting will discuss the management of water resources in arid regions, the assessment of water resources in the Arab region, recommendations of regional and international conferences in matters related to water management, rationalisation of water consumption, recycling of treated waste water, joint water projects, surface and underground water resources, among other relevant topics.

The meeting is organised by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation

with the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO).



Saleh Irsheidat

with the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO).

Petrol refinery denies hike in price of gas cylinders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) Sunday denied current rumours that it intends to raise the prices of gas and announced that ample preparations have been made to face possible shortages in winter.

The question of oil products has been discussed with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samir Darwazah and agreement has been reached on keeping the prices of oil products as they are for the present, said JPRC Director General Abdul Wahab Zoubi.

But the JPRC will nevertheless announce a tender next month for the purchase

of an additional 35,000 tonnes of gas to help meet the expected needs of consumers in the first three months of 1996 when gas consumption for heating purposes will be at its highest, according to Mr. Zoubi.

His statement followed local rumours that the prices of oil, especially gas products, will be hiked after a shortage of gas and gas cylinders was reported in some parts of the country.

Admitting that there has been a shortage of gas, Mr. Zoubi said that proper measures are being taken to deal with the situation.

Consumption of gas has risen sharply from 500 tonnes a day ten days ago to

around 1,000 tonnes a day at present, Mr. Zoubi said.

With the refinery's daily production capacity standing at 450 tonnes a day, the JPRC last summer announced tenders for the import of gas by land and sea. So far, it has imported 13,500 tonnes from several countries at relatively high rates, according to Mr. Zoubi.

The JPRC has also recently announced new tenders for the purchase of 20,000 tonnes of gas to meet local consumption, according to Mr. Zoubi.

As a precautionary measure to deal with emergencies in remote regions the

company's trucks have filled to capacity all the storage tanks in remote locations such as Wadi Mousa, Shobak, Ras Naqab and Tafleh in the southern parts of the country, Mr. Zoubi noted.

The JPRC owns and operates 450 fuel tanker trucks that distribute oil products to 293 gas stations in all governorates.

The company produces up to 800 cylinders a day but it recently arranged for the import of 150,000 cylinders, some of which have already arrived through a Saudi Arabian firm.

Court to hear 3 separate murder cases

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court will begin hearing testimonies in three separate murders in the next few weeks, according to judicial sources.

The first case involves a 24-year-old man, Na'el M. who is charged with sodomising and killing a nine-year-old child in a farm in Ghor Safi on Oct. 3, the source said.

Hussein M. Shamalar's body was retrieved by authorities a few days after he was reported missing by

his family on Sept. 29, official sources then said.

The child, who was raped then strangled, was found buried near a deserted house, the source added.

According to the source, police apprehended several suspects, but the evidence pointed to Na'el, the official added without elaborating. He said Na'el confessed and had reenacted the crime in front of police.

The other case involves a 27-year-old man charged with killing a woman and dumping her body in Weibdeh Park on Aug. 12, 1995, according to the source.

The suspect, Khalid A., killed Muna M. to avenge the alleged rape of his girlfriend, the source told the Jordan Times.

According to the source, the murder victim had helped a man rape the suspect's girlfriend in a brothel the day before the murder.

Muna's body was found in the park with stab wounds to the chest, police reports said. The report added that the victim's body had also been mutilated.

There were no further details available. The court set Dec. 17 to start hearing

the case. The third case involves a 26-year-old man charged with killing his sister in November in Zarqa, the source said.

Samir A., stabbed his divorced sister to death in her house in Zarqa Camp after a relative told him that his sister was having an affair, and that there were tape recordings to substantiate the allegations, official sources then said.

Official investigations proved that there was nothing incriminating or unusual about the tapes.

Road accidents claim four lives

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four people were killed Saturday in three separate road accidents in Madaba and Aqaba, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The first accident, involving two trailers and which claimed the lives of two people, took place late Saturday night on the Amman-Aqaba highway when traffic was held up for three

hours, traffic officials said.

The official told the Jordan Times Sunday that the accident occurred near Dabab Hanout area at 10:30 p.m. and was caused because of speeding and wrongful overtaking.

He said a trailer hauling phosphate to Aqaba overtook a car and met head-on with an oncoming trailer.

"The strong impact caused the immediate death of both drivers and the complete wreckage of the trailers," the official said.

He added that the wrecked trailers blocked the one-lane highway for three hours until police cleared the road.

The deceased were identified by CDD reports as Mousa Saleh, 43, and Wa'el Rida Darawsheh, 34.

In the Theban district of Madaba, a 19-year-old man was killed on a farm when the tractor he was driving rolled over and crushed him, the reports said.

Mohammad Hamdan was killed instantly.

Also in Madaba on Saturday, a 24-year-old man was killed in a similar accident when the steamroller he was driving rolled over and killed him, the reports said.

Adel Ahmad was driving the steamroller in a construction site in the Mamounieh area near the Coca-Cola factories when the incident took place.

Police reports said that in both incidents the victims were driving without licenses.

Conference to look into regional food production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Union of Food Industries (AUFI) will open a six-day conference in Amman next Saturday to discuss ways of increasing food production in the Arab world, according to Jack Khayyat, chairman of a committee preparing for the conference.

The conference will also discuss cooperation among Arab states to meet food requirements until the year 2000, Mr. Khayyat said.

The meeting, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will look into 40 proposed projects aimed at helping the

Arab World to serve as an integrated economic bloc, producing sufficient food for its population, Mr. Khayyat said.

The meeting also aims to help participants to make an assessment of the investments in Arab food industries, according to Mr. Khayyat.

"Arab countries together import \$34 billion worth of food annually," Mr. Khayyat said, "and that this sum is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years up to the end of this century, especially in imports of meat, cereals, dairy products and sugar in view of the rapidly increasing pop-

ulation of the Arab World." According to AUFI Secretary General Falah Sa'ed Jaber nearly 200 delegates, all specialists in agriculture and food processing industries as well as representatives of a number of regional organisations, will focus their attention on investments to increase food production.

Mr. Jaber said the delegates will explore the role of regional funds and commercial and development banks in financing agricultural projects and will review experiments of a number of participating countries in food industries and the production of table

eggs, poultry, meat, dairy products, child food, soap, detergents as well as packaging processes.

A specialised exhibition of items used in food production and industries will be held on the sidelines of the conference, according to Mr. Jaber.

The conference will be held in cooperation with the ministries of agriculture and supply as well as the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and the Arab Chambers of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.

FILM

* "La Chevre" at the French Cultural Centre at 8.00 p.m.

LECTURES

* "Getting to know Dickens through 'A Christmas Carol'" by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5.00 p.m.

* "Teaching German in the Arab World" (in Arabic) by Dr. Abdo Abboud at the University of Jordan at 11.00 a.m.

CONCERT

* Performance by the Symphonic Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces (including works by Strauss, Verdi, Bizet and Jordanian composer Youssef Khasho) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8.00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* Recital of poems by several poets at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, at 6.00 p.m.

* Recital of poems by Zuhair Abu Shayib at the Phoenix Gallery, Gardens St., at 6.00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography by poet Ibrahim Nasrallah entitled "The Autobiography of an Eye" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

* Photograph exhibition "Biblical Itineraries" at the French Cultural Centre.

NEWS
IN
BRIEF

Prime Ministry issues freeze on appointments

Amman (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission Abdullah Ulayyan Sunday said a freeze on all appointments in government departments was effective as of Dec. 1, in accordance with a prime ministry circular. The prime minister sent a circular calling for a halt on all appointments until the new manning table for the year 1996 is approved. Mr. Ulayyan said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the commission had earlier requested all ministries and government departments to fill vacancies prior to Dec. 1, noting that more than 5,000 people have been appointed during the year 1995.

Second South Korean former president arrested

SEOUL (R) — Former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan was arrested and taken to jail Sunday on charges of military rebellion stemming from a 1979 coup and a later army massacre that crushed resistance to his rule.

Mr. Chun, a former general, was the second ex-president to be put behind bars in less than three weeks. His successor Roh Tae-Woo, a close army colleague, was arrested last month on corruption charges.

Prosecutors piecing together the bloody events surrounding the putsch and the despatch of elite combat troops in May 1980 to put down a democratic revolt in the southwestern city of Kwangju said they now planned to summon a third former head of state, Choi Kyu-Hah.

Mr. Chun was arrested in his home town one day after he defied a prosecution summons. He had bolted back to Kyongsang province, his political power base, Saturday.

Townfolk of Hapchon, 240 kilometres south of Seoul, welcomed their most famous son with cheers and banners and vowed to block his arrest. Yet finally they submitted without a fight.

Nine law enforcement officials sent to Hapchon in the dead of night knocked at the door of Mr. Chun's traditional Korean-style home before dawn Sunday. Shortly afterwards, they shepherded him to a waiting car past rows of riot police linking arms.

Squashed in the back seat between two burly agents, Mr. Chun was driven north to Anyang prison on the outskirts of Seoul.

Mr. Roh is being held sep-

arately in the more modern Seoul detention house "because it is difficult to take two former presidents (together)", a Justice Ministry official said.

Prosecutors said Mr. Roh would be indicted Tuesday, one day later than originally scheduled, on charges relating to a \$654 million slush fund he confessed to amassing while in office.

It is Mr. Chun's second humiliation since leaving office in 1988. Shortly after he handed over the reins to Mr. Roh he publicly confessed to corruption under his Fifth Republic and vanished with his wife from public view to do two years' penance in a hilltop Buddhist monastery.

Seoul prosecutors said they had already begun questioning Mr. Chun inside prison, but they gave no details.

On Saturday, after rejecting the prosecution summons, Mr. Chun protested that prosecutors had already passed their verdict in July when they said he and Mr. Roh would not be indicted.

Last month President Kim Young-Sam reversed that decision and instructed law drafters within his ruling Democratic Liberal Party to start work on legislation to indict his predecessors.

Veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung held a rally of about 30,000 supporters Sunday and demanded an independent enquiry into the slush scandal and massacre as well as parliamentary hearings.

He proposed an all-party summit to resolve what he described as "turmoil and chaos".

Mr. Chun's iron-fisted rule lasted from 1980 to 1988. It was marked by

striking economic successes, but overshadowed by the massacre in Kwangju that crushed resistance to his martial law.

Prosecutors are looking into the tragic decision to use crack paratroopers of the special warfare command troops to put down the civil insurrection.

By official count, almost 200 people were killed in the fierce hand-to-hand fighting. Residents say thousands died.

Ex-President Choi was installed as caretaker president after President Park Chung-Hee was assassinated in 1979. He was forced to concede power to Mr. Chun and his elite military clique after they shot their way to power in Kwangju.

Many South Koreans applauded Mr. Chun's arrest Sunday, saying justice had been served. One Seoul restaurant offered free drinks and food in celebration.

"This is a historical event that will never be forgotten," said restaurant operator Choi Seung-Yong, 34.

"He has no-one to blame but himself. He should be killed for all those who died in the Kwangju massacre," said student Kim Chung-Nam.

Some Seoul residents fretted about the damage done to the country's international reputation.

"He deserves to be punished, but what will foreigners think when they learn two of our former presidents are in jail?" said Kim Sun-Sook, who lives in the United States but is currently visiting Seoul.

Another restaurant owner in Seoul, Chung Jong-Sun, celebrated Mr. Chun's arrest by offering food and drink

on the house.

"Chun's arrest is everyone's victory," Mr. Chung was quoted as saying. He said he was in prison for one year for taking part in the Kwangju protests.

Shin Dae-Kyun of the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice said Mr. Chun's defiance was "ignoring the country's law and order".

Among middle-aged citizens who lived through the 1950-53 Korean War, pleasure that the arrogant coup leader had finally been humbled was tempered by worries that Pyongyang may spy an opportunity for another military adventure in the political turmoil.

"North Koreans are clever. They can always use this to attack," said Kim Duk-Hee.

The affluent who spend their days playing the stock market were unimpressed. They remember nostalgically Mr. Chun's days of economic stability.

Some people said Mr. Chun should be punished but should leave it until after the enactment of a special law ordered by President Kim.

"Why are prosecutors in such a hurry to indict Mr. Chun when they didn't do so before? Chun should be punished but wait for the special law. We have waited this long, why not slightly longer," said 66-year-old housewife Kim Duk-Shim.

Others resented Mr. Chun's tone of defiance.

"He should have at least said he was sorry for all those who died in the May 18 massacre. He showed no sympathy and came out too strongly," said Kim Duk-Hee.



Cotonou Airport personnel lay on the red carpet to keep it from blowing away as they wait for the arrival of the aircraft carrying French President Jacques Chirac for the Francophone summit currently being held in Benin (AFP photo)

Chirac says Spread French language through cyberspace

COTONOU (R) — President Jacques Chirac wants French speakers around the world to show speakers of Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Japanese the way forward by hopping onto the information superhighway and making their voices heard.

Mr. Chirac and other leaders attending the sixth Francophone summit in the west African state of Benin urged fellow French speakers Saturday to ensure their movement becomes a major political voice in the world like the Commonwealth.

Highlighting the dominance of English in the information revolution, they evoked the danger of being left behind.

"I call on La Francophonie to take the lead in a vast campaign for linguistic pluralism and cultural diversity on the information highways," Mr. Chirac told the opening session of the three-day gathering.

"I want this call from Cotonou to underline this ambition and be understood throughout the world," he said, adding: "Spanish and Arabic speakers, all those who express themselves in Hindi or in Russian, in Chinese or in Japanese are confronted by the same threat."

La Francophonie, a loose association of nations grouping 400 million people around the globe, has traditionally fought against the domination of English in the international language of trade, technology and communication.

Mr. Chirac, attending his first Francophone summit as president, told leaders from the 47 members that French speakers had to ensure French was used on the information highways — or "information superhighways" as the French call them.

"If our language, our programmes, our creations are not strongly present in the new media, then our future generations will be economically and culturally marginalised," he said.

"We must produce and disseminate (information) in French. It's a question of survival," he told delegates. African states make up over half the movement's membership but Canada, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos belong and the movement has spread its net to include Bulgaria, Romania and shortly Moldova and Portuguese speaking Sao Tome and Principe.

Leading member Quebec, a Canadian province, nearly became the world's newest French-speaking state when

Francophone separatists lost an October referendum by a whisker.

Mr. Chirac said the information revolution threatened to widen the gap between rich and poor and cause cultural uniformity. Poor countries, he said, should take part in the exercise.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien took a similar tack. "La Francophonie must go on the offensive," he said.

Organisers say the two-yearly summit in the main city of the nation that is the original home of the voodoo cult and once of Amazon women warriors, will mark a turning point.

It will create the post of secretary-general to promote the movement's concerns as the Commonwealth does for Britain and its English-speaking ex-colonies. "The Francophone community must take its place in the concert of nations," Mr. Chirac said.

The summit, meanwhile, lost one of its participants before it began, when Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, 79, fell ill before taking his seat. French officials said he was flown to France for treatment after suffering a nosebleed.

Santa mails first worldwide replies

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — With the help of his numerous elves, Santa Claus Saturday sent off almost 100,000 replies to good children all around the world from his post office on the Arctic Circle. Last month, Santa's 30 little elves were busy answering a record number of letters from more than 100 countries, in the first batch of replies to be mailed before Christmas. "I think we're heading for an all-time record of 400,000 letters from around the world," Santa said by mobile phone from his headquarters near Rovaniemi, 830 kilometres north of Helsinki. Last year, more than 300,000 children from 132 countries wrote to Santa, who lives on a mountain in northern Finland near the Arctic Circle. They were mostly from Poland, Japan and Britain. Santa and his little helpers reply to children's letters in 12 languages, telling them about Father Christmas, his elves and the reindeer that live in Lapland, the northernmost, Arctic region of Finland. Santa's post office and his workshop are also popular tourist venues with hundreds of thousands of annual visitors. Every winter, travel agencies arrange direct flights to Rovaniemi from Japan, the United States and Europe, including by supersonic Concorde from London. The address is: Santa Claus' Post Office, Fin-96930 Arctic Circle, Finland.

Princess Michael falls from her horse

AYR, Scotland (AP) — Princess Michael of Kent fell from her horse while riding in a hunt on a Scottish estate Saturday and was treated for a neck strain injury. The princess, born Marie-Christine Von Reibnitz, was taken into the hospital on a stretcher, but left walking with her husband, Prince Michael, a first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II. In London, a spokesman at Buckingham Palace said, "It was a minor neck strain and she was discharged after examination."

Sharon Stone urges more funds for AIDS research

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Actress Sharon Stone appealed for more donations to AIDS research as the United Nations marked World AIDS Day. "We have to put the intensity of our heartbreak into the force of our will to contain and to finish the AIDS situation," Stone told a news conference at U.N. Headquarters. "I'm shocked by how little we know and how little we understand." Stone and actress Natasha Richardson appeared at a luncheon sponsored by the American Foundation For AIDS Research, which hopes to raise \$76 million for AIDS research.

Antonio Banderas has a great new deal

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Antonio Banderas has a great new deal: More movies, more control and more love. His recent deal with Warner Brothers allows him to make two films in three years with a choice of 12 scripts. The deal should allow him to slow down and spend more time with girlfriend Melanie Griffith. He also will be able to produce, and eventually direct, his own films. "They're giving me an office, and Melanie has one there," he said Thursday during a visit home to promote his and Griffith's new film, *Two Much*. The film, which co-stars with Danny Aiello, Darryl Hannah and Eli Wallach, opens on Valentine's Day in the United States.

Report: EU should mean more to citizens

BRUSSELS (R) — The benefits of being in the European Union are less clear to many of its current citizens than to those of Eastern Europe striving to join, a report on Europe's future will say this week.

The report, to be unveiled Tuesday but obtained by Reuters at the weekend, urges EU leaders to make the bloc more relevant to its citizens, to prepare it properly for a dozen or more new members and to increase its role on the world stage.

But it also makes clear that the EU is far from agreed on what needs to be done to achieve these goals, with Britain in particular opposed to any radical change.

"A Strategy For Europe", written by a high-level study group of mainly European affairs ministers, will be given to EU leaders at their summit in Madrid on Dec. 15 and 16. It is designed to be a tentative agenda for the EU's 1996 review of its treaties.

It accepts that next year's review, formally called the inter-governmental conference although it will be an open-ended series of nego-

tiations, will not see a wholesale rewriting of EU treaties.

"We consider that the conference should focus on necessary changes, without embarking on a complete revision of the treaty," it says.

Gone, too, are the days when Euro-visionaries talked of a united states of Europe. "The union is not and does not want to become a super-state," the report says, adding that it nonetheless must be more than a simple economic market.

But admitting that the rationale for further integration is not evident to a growing number of EU citizens, the report says the EU must brought closer to its people through more openness, more job creation and better efforts at fighting crime.

"All those (Eastern) European nations rediscovering their freedom wish to join...yet in Western Europe there is a growing sense of public disaffection," it says.

The report says that bringing Poland, Hungary, the Baltic states and others into the union is essential for

Europe's stability, but will not be easy.

It indicates widespread disagreement among current EU states about how to adapt their institutions and decision-making processes — designed for a smaller bloc — to be efficient in a potential union of 27 or more countries.

Britain, in particular, remains opposed to a number of reforms supported by the majority, including watering down the right of single countries to veto proposals they don't like and giving the European Parliament more say in legislative affairs.

The report does not mention Britain by name, referring simply to "one of us", but London has well heralded its positions throughout the drafting of the report.

There is agreement on the need for improving the way the EU acts jointly in foreign policy matters, a principle written into the Maastricht Treaty but which has not been overtly successful in the two years the treaty has been in effect.

"The union must be able to analyse and prepare its external action jointly," the report says.

Vote shows German Greens true to pacifist roots

BREMEN, Germany (R) — Germany's pacifist Greens remained true to their roots Saturday and voted at a party congress to reject the use of military intervention to resolve armed conflicts.

Dismissing appeals from parliamentary co-leader Joschka Fischer that force was sometimes needed to stop genocide, delegates agreed after a day of passionate debate that economic sanctions should be the last resort for securing peace.

They backed the idea of creating lightly armed U.N. peacekeeping units to be sent to crisis areas and said force could be used if necessary to enforce trade sanctions against aggressors.

"I am extremely satisfied," co-leader Juergen Trittin said. "A clear majority opposed military intervention."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plan to send 4,000 German soldiers to the Balkans to help enforce a peace deal for Bosnia split the Greens, whose party grew out of the student protests and peace movement of the 1960s and 1970s to become Germany's third political force.

Mr. Trittin and parliamentary co-leader Kerstin Mueller argued that using armed might to settle conflicts would do more harm than good and militarise German foreign policy after 50 years of post-war restraint.

"The question here is whether or not we want to accept military means as a way to settle conflicts," Ms. Mueller said before the vote to solid applause from 700 delegates.

Thousands of people leave homes in Montserrat as volcano threatens to erupt

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat (R) — Residents of Montserrat's capital moved from their homes Saturday as activity in the island's volcano raised fears of a deadly eruption in the British colony.

Authorities said the relocation was going smoothly and scientists had reported no significant change in the activity of the chance's peak volcano.

Montserrat's government Friday had declared a state of emergency and ordered the phased relocation of 3,000 to 4,000 of the island's 11,000 residents from the southeastern part of the island.

In a statement issued by the government information office, Montserrat Governor Frank Savage Friday had told islanders the lava dome in a vent of the Chance's

Peak volcano was growing slowly, indicating a slim but increasing chance of eruption in the next few weeks.

"Scientists feel there is a small chance, but a chance nonetheless, which must be taken seriously, of material flowing down the (volcano's) western slope into the capital, Plymouth," Frank Savage, governor of the 39-square-kilometre (101-square-mile) island, told the Caribbean News Agency Saturday.

The latest evacuation is the second since July 18, when the volcano, dormant for more than 100 years, roared to life, spewing hot gases, rock and ash on surrounding countryside. In late August, the government ordered more than half of the population from their home, forcing them to live for two weeks in cramped

quarters before they were allowed back home.

Though the volcano continued to emit steam and ash periodically through the fall, islanders have reported no similar eruption since July.

"There's been no sparks and lava and all this stuff," said Carol Osborne, owner of the Vue Pointe Hotel, located north of the volcano, Saturday.

Mr. Savage said Plymouth, emptied during the last evacuation, would remain open for essential services. He also said scientists expected no major eruption soon.

Montserrat, a lush, mountainous island in the eastern Caribbean, lies about 43 kilometres southwest of Antigua and 400 kilometres southeast of Puerto Rico.



Bolivian military police guard the site where army troops dig for the remains of the legendary Argentine-Cuban guerrilla leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara. The site is at an abandoned runway of the Vallegrande Airport 770 kilometres southeast of the Bolivian capital of La Paz (AFP photo)

Digging for remains of Che Guevara resumes

VALLEGRANDE, Bolivia (R) — Digging in search of legendary revolutionary leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara's remains resumed Saturday near the remote Bolivian town of Vallegrande after a brief pause caused by rainstorms.

Heavy rains Friday forced a squad of 50 soldiers commanded by two generals to halt the search for the body of Che, killed by Bolivian troops 28 years ago after leading a doomed, nine-month rebel war in jungle-covered mountains.

"This is a Che miracle," said Mariana Espinoza, a dweller of the drought-hit town. "We went for months without rain and suddenly we get this blessing just when it seems they are find-

ing the remains of Che."

But the rains stopped and local campesinos joined the legion of soldiers who Friday started digging with picks and spades in the Vallegrande airstrip.

Bolivian authorities, who had initially planned to stop the excavations Sunday due to nation-wide municipal elections, said Saturday they will continue non-stop.

Argentine forensic anthropologist Alejandro Inchaurregui is leading the dig along a 100-metre by 10-metre strip behind the old cemetery of Vallegrande.

The search for the remains of Fidel Castro's deputy in the revolution and Cuba's most revered hero was guided by the testimony of two

witnesses whose identities are being kept secret.

One of them is believed to have driven the tractor used to cover the mass grave containing the bodies of the Argentine-born Che and other left-wing rebels killed in combat.

The digging was ordered by President Gonzalo Sanchez De Lozada to give a Catholic burial to the 1960s firebrand, who remains a leftist ideological icon decades after his death.

Once bones are found they will be removed for identification. A team of Argentine experts will arrive next Tuesday to search beneath the soil with radar.

Guevara, wounded and on the verge of starvation, was

captured on Oct. 8, 1967, and was shot the next day by a single gunman by orders of the army's top commanders, according to veterans of the fight against leftist rebels.

On Thursday hundreds of onlookers watched in frustration as retired Gen. Mario Vargas Salinas paced the dusty airstrip only to say he could not remember where Che lies.

Gen. Vargas Salinas revealed a military secret almost three decades old when he declared last month that Che's remains were buried near the Vallegrande airstrip, a vast area as big as 50 soccer stadiums surrounded by hills.

Diana boosts image by revealing hospital visits

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana, estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, boosted her public image further Sunday with an interview revealing that she pays late-night visits to hospitals to comfort the seriously ill.

She told the News Of The World newspaper: "There are hundreds of patients who are there without their own loved ones and need a human presence. I really love helping. I seem to draw strength from them."

The revelations come two weeks after the princess told the nation in an unprecedented interview on BBC Television that she wanted to be queen of her hearts and have a useful role in her own right.

An opinion poll for the Sunday Times newspaper showed the gamble, which enraged the palace which had been kept in the dark until a few days before the interview's screening, had paid off.

The new poll showed Princess Diana's public sympathy rating jumped from 27 per cent before the interview to 39 per cent now. Prince Charles's sank from 10 to eight per cent.

In her new interview, Princess Diana said she visits two hospitals on a regular basis, going out from her Kensington Palace residence dressed in jeans and a baseball cap late at night to avoid being recognised.

"These people, cancer patients or people with other illnesses, they come out of the operating theatre and come round alone, and I try to be there for them," she said.

Buckingham Palace said Saturday the princess has met top royal aides to discuss her future.

The royal establishment offered her talks after her frank BBC interview where she admitted to adultery, branded palace officials as "the enemy", and won applause from the people.

The Mail On Sunday said Princess Diana made

a series of demands, for a new image for the monarchy and for her crowd-pulling potential to be recognised and not derided within the palace.

It quoted a palace source as saying the princess called the shots at the meeting, leaving no doubt who was in charge.

"The meeting was perfectly amicable," a palace spokesman said. Princess Diana, 34, met senior royal household figures last week.

"There will no doubt be further meetings. When there is something substantive to say we will say it," he added.

In her BBC interview, seen by many as tit-for-tat revenge for Prince Charles' TV confession last year that he had been unfaithful with his old married friend Camilla Parker Bowles, Princess Diana said she had had an affair too, with army major James Hewitt.

She also spoke frankly about her depression, loneliness and eating disorder bulimia during her ill-starred marriage which began in 1981 and fell apart finally two sons and 11 years later when the couple separated. Divorce is on the cards.

In the Sunday Times poll, most people said they did not want Princess Diana as queen if Prince Charles one day succeeds his mother Queen Elizabeth to the throne.

But half backed Princess Diana's preferred option, that Prince Charles should stand aside for their son Prince William to be the next king.

Only 43 per cent of the 1,035 adults polled wanted Prince Charles to become king, something he has been groomed for all his life and which he has vowed to do. A third would prefer a republic.

'IRA moved arms to frustrate peace move'

LONDON (R) — One of Northern Ireland's leading politicians accused the Irish Republican Army (IRA) Sunday of trying to torpedo the latest peace initiative by "moves of a very threatening nature" with arms held in the Irish Republic.

David Trimble, leader of the pro-British official Ulster Unionist Party, said the episode proved that it was vital that guerrilla groups in the province should surrender their weapons before talks on Northern Ireland's constitutional future get under way.

The British and Irish governments announced last weekend that they had agreed to set up an international commission headed by U.S. Senator George Mitchell to look at the vexed question of the huge caches of arms and explosives held by such groups.

In what is known as a twin-track approach, the two governments also agreed to hold preliminary talks with the Northern Ireland political parties, including Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing.

The agreement was reached just before U.S. President Bill Clinton began a visit to Britain and Ireland which included a trip to Belfast to give fresh impetus to the peace process.

Mr. Trimble, speaking on BBC Television, said: "In the run-up to the agreement on twin-track, the IRA started to move weapons

around in the Irish Republic."

He said this explained reports in some newspapers last Sunday quoting sources in the British intelligence service MI5 as saying the 16-month Northern Ireland ceasefire was about to break down.

"We knew at that stage that the IRA were making moves of a very threatening nature and it is that reason why we have to see this issue dealt with," Mr. Trimble said.

"The important thing... is that both the British and Irish governments ignored the threats coming from the IRA, threats designed to prevent this commission coming into existence."

His allegations sparked a sharp exchange with John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which favours a united Ireland, who was appearing on the same programme.

Interrupting Mr. Trimble, Mr. Hume said: "You're speculating." Mr. Trimble replied firmly: "I'm not."

A spokesman at Prime Minister John Major's office declined to comment on Mr. Trimble's claims although he noted that the Unionist leader had given no source for his information.

"We don't comment on security matters or on intelligence on paramilitary organisations," the spokesman said.

Sen. Alan Simpson announces retirement

CODY, Wyoming (AP) — Republican Sen. Alan Simpson announced to a hometown crowd that he will not seek another term after 17 years in Congress.

Sen. Simpson made the announcement Saturday before a crowd of more than 200 at a Cody Country Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Sen. Simpson is the third senator in the past month, after Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon and Nancy Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, to announce plans not to seek re-

election in 1996. Four Republicans, including Sen. Simpson, and eight Democrats are leaving the Senate when their terms end 13 months from now. The last time that many senators retired was a century ago — in 1896.

Sen. Simpson, 64, won his first U.S. Senate race in 1978 and easily defeated challengers in re-election bids in 1984 and 1990.

As a senator, he became known for his quick wit and sharp criticism leveled at those in both parties he felt were acting irrationally.

Sri Lankan troops overwhelm Jaffna; raise national flag

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops Sunday raised the national flag in Jaffna symbolising victory over Tamil Tiger separatists after almost 50 days of bitter fighting which left some 2,500 people killed on both sides.

Senior military commanders hoisted the flag at the Dutch-built Jaffna Fort for the first time since 1990 when the town fell to the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), officials said.

The brief ceremony came a day after troops stormed the 16th-century fort, now in a shambles, following the Oct. 17 offensive aimed at dismantling a de facto LTTE state with the northern town of Jaffna as capital.

Military officials said the Sri Lankan flag, depicting a sword-wielding yellow lion on a red background which has been held in contempt by the Tigers, was raised from the ramparts of the fort.

Soldiers kept up a search for explosives at key landmarks in the Jaffna City centre. The rebel resistance had died down and army engineers moved from building to building defusing booby-traps, the officials said.

"We have a stranglehold on Jaffna now," chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe asserted. "There may be some Tigers trapped inside, but they can't leave. We are going after them."

The army was occupying Jaffna's main bus station, the region's largest hospital, an imposing clock tower in the heart of the deserted town and the former government secretariat.

"There are still a lot of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) in houses and buildings and we are clearing them," Brig. Munasinghe added. Six soldiers have been killed and 20 wounded since the fort was taken Saturday.

Brig. Munasinghe said more than 400 Tamil civilians who did not join a mass exodus and had taken refuge in a church and a school were under the care of the army.

"There are a lot of people who stayed back," Brig. Munasinghe said. "They will be screened and given all assistance by authorities as part of our rehabilitation programme."

Defence sources said the entire town was in the hands of the Sri Lankan military for the first time since 1985, and a formal announcement

of the long-expected victory would be made soon.

The army's capture of Jaffna cost the lives of at least 508 soldiers and 1,925 guerrillas while the air force lost two transport planes and one navy supply craft.

The fighting has left thousands of Tamils homeless and prompted a nationwide alert for Tiger revenge attacks, while the LTTE massacred 125 civilians and rocketed two giant oil depots here.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwawe, who led the army offensive, said the capture of Jaffna would not end the military thrust.

"It will not be the end of the operation," he said. "In our quest for peace, this is only a symbol."

The five-pointed star-shaped fort has been a symbol of dominance over Jaffna, the fountainhead of a Tamil separatist campaign which has left more than 50,000 people dead over two decades.

LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran said in a Nov. 27 message faxed Sunday by the rebels' London office that more Tamil youths should join the separatist campaign.

"This is crucial for the survival of the Tamil nation," he said. "Our

nation has been forced into a necessity to struggle for survival."

"The young generation of Tamils cannot escape from this national duty, from this call of history."

Sri Lanka Sunday called for volunteers to help with rehabilitation in Jaffna which the army captured a day earlier.

Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said Colombo needed a large number of volunteers to work in the northern town of Jaffna, where scores of buildings were destroyed in fighting between troops and Tamil guerrillas.

"Security forces have secured a major victory for a lasting peace," the state-run radio quoted him as saying. "There is a tremendous responsibility to undertake this massive task of rehabilitation."

The minister said the government would not be able to carry out on its own the rebuilding of the battle-scarred region, which had no electricity for the past five years.

Officials said foreign aid donors had pledged nearly \$1 billion for the rehabilitation of the northern region, but the money could not be drawn because of continuing fighting.

Rwanda president blasts France

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu attacked France Saturday, accusing it of having had a hand in 1994's genocide and still wanting to control the tiny central African country.

In comments certain to further sour relations between the two nations, Mr. Bizimungu accused France of trying to restore Rwanda's former extremist Hutu regime to power and vowed to continue to resist French policies in the region.

In remarks timed to coincide with Saturday's start of the Francophone summit in Benin, Mr. Bizimungu told a news conference: "France has had a hand in the genocide in this country, because it wanted to protect its agents who were in power here and to make of this country what it would have liked it to become."

"What the French are after now is to restore these people to power. France is interested in the French language and the protection of its policies here. But we will continue to resist these attempts."

France was one of the key supporters of Rwanda's defeated former Hutu regime, responsible for 1994's genocide of up to a million ethnic Tutsis and allied Hutus in brutal ethnic frenzy.

Its influence in Rwanda, a Belgian colony until independence in 1962, has deteriorated sharply since a Tutsi-led army swept to power last July.

Many ministers in the new government including the military strongman Paul Kagame, who is defence minister and vice-president, are Anglophone — a fact that has done little to dampen French fears Rwanda is slipping out of its zone of influence.

France armed and trained the Hutu government army and intervened in the closing stages of the civil war to set up a "safe zone" in southwestern Rwanda to protect civilians and stop the Tutsi rebel advance.

Senior members of the former government and the defeated army took shelter in the French safe zone before fleeing to Zaire together with a million Hutu refugees.

Thousands participate in anti-Bhutto rally

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's chief political rival Nawaz Sharif led thousands of supporters in a rally here Sunday, vowing to ouster her two-year old government.

Witnesses said some 10,000 people flocked to the rally, part of a public mobilisation campaign launched last month by the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which is headed by the former prime minister.

Traffic remained blocked on a principal thoroughfare used by commuters between the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad for hours, but no incidents were reported.

"We will get rid of plunderers of national wealth," Mr. Sharif said in an aggressive speech to a slogan chanting crowd, bitterly attacking what he called Ms. Bhutto's economically ruinous and anti-democratic policies.

The rally was primarily aimed at protesting against

the alleged violations of women's rights by the government and police excesses against them. A contingent of women also took part in the male-dominated show.

The PML claims police have mistreated female activists during public protests by the party against the government and a female MP, Tehmina Daultana, was hospitalised last week in Lahore due to injuries.

The opposition is also angry over a court verdict last month jailing nine PML women workers for six months on charges of damaging and ransacking a court in Rawalpindi after it rejected bail for an arrested PML parliamentarian.

"These women are victims of a woman prime minister," Mr. Sharif thundered, accusing the government of illegally detaining women from the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, an ethnic opposition group in violence-plagued city of Karachi.

The government and opposition have been locked in unabated political confrontation since Ms. Bhutto returned to power in an October 1993 election.

The snap polls under a caretaker administration came after Mr. Sharif resigned under pressure during a political crisis caused by his power tussle with the then president who was supported by Ms. Bhutto as opposition leader.

Ms. Bhutto has accused Mr. Sharif's industrialist family — of unlawfully extracting loans worth billions of rupees while he was chief minister in the key province of Punjab in the 1980s and later as premier from 1990 until his resignation.

Mr. Sharif's brother, Shabbaz, is currently in jail, facing trial on charges of bank loan fraud. The family claims the government is trying to destroy its business interests out of revenge, a charged denied by Ms. Bhutto.

Yeltsin foes appear close to victory

MOSCOW (R) — Two weeks before a parliamentary election in Russia, the scene appears set for a victory by President Boris Yeltsin's opponents and political parties are already looking beyond the Dec. 17 vote.

Most opinion polls suggest the revived Communist Party led by Gennady Zyuganov will take the biggest share of seats in the State Duma lower chamber.

Along with potential allies from the conservative Agrarian Party and the nationalist Congress of Russian Communities, the Communists are likely to have a solid majority.

Political analysts are now speculating about how the possible Communist victory will influence a presidential poll scheduled for June 16, 1996, and how Mr. Yeltsin will co-exist with a hostile parliament in the run-up to it.

"A ghost wanders across Russia, the ghost of communism," said the liberal Izvestia daily Saturday paraphrasing the opening words of Karl Marx's Communist manifesto.

Under a law which allows only parties and blocs which win five per cent or more of the vote to take up seats in parliament, few parties are expected to be represented and the Communists' share of the chamber could be magnified.

The centre-right Our Home Is Russia bloc led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is likely to be the only grouping loyal to Mr. Yeltsin which will clear the five per cent barrier.

The liberal Yabloko Party led by economist Grigory Yavlinsky, the Women Of Russia group and the ultra-nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy are also likely to be serious contenders.

The chances of other parties — there are 43 of them running — are slim, according to most polls.

Every party and politician, including Mr. Yeltsin, is aware that the real prize in Russian politics is the presidency and the fight for it has already started.

The law gives the president sweeping powers and the presidential poll could change the course of history for Russia yet again.

Mr. Yeltsin, who spent nearly a month in hospital after a mild heart attack on Oct. 26 and is now recovering in a sanatorium, has said he will announce his decision on whether or not to stand for a second term after the Duma election.

Presidential challengers are likely to include Mr. Zhirinovskiy and Mr. Yavlinsky. Mr. Zyuganov and the popular charismatic General Alexander Lebed may also run.

A parliamentary victory would also be a morale booster for the opponents

of Mr. Yeltsin whose popularity has plummeted.

Izvestia warned that any attempt by the Communists to roll back privatisation and market reforms would trigger "inevitable catastrophic shocks for the state".

In theory, Mr. Yeltsin has enough powers to ignore the future Duma. But it could become a real nuisance for him if it generates anti-reform laws and overturns his vetoes with a two-thirds majority.

Several Kremlin officials have indicated that the five per cent barrier leading to a parliament representing minority of the voters could give ground to consider the future Duma "unrepresentative" and probably unconstitutional.

The Constitutional Court has refused to consider the issue ahead of the ballot, but it could be raised again if the result is too negative for the Kremlin and its political allies.

Mr. Yeltsin dissolved a conservative parliament in 1993.

"A threatening prospect — a victory by the Communist and patriotic forces in parliamentary and presidential elections — puts the same questions to democrats and reformers which they failed to resolve in 1993," Izvestia said.

Jordan Times

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Humanitarian effort deserves push

THE 26TH international conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, which begins today in Geneva, is yet another occasion to address humanitarian endeavours against the backdrop of increased armed conflicts waged in utter disregard for basic humanitarian laws. Everywhere we look we see countries either engulfed by bloody civil strife or nations waging wars against one another on a scale and manner which suggests that man has yet to learn from the bitter lessons and experiences of the past.

To its credit, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been trying hard to "humanise" as much as possible all forms of armed conflicts, although most of these attempts have been in vain. While nations appear prepared to adopt even more stringent international legislation and codes of conduct on wars, most of these countries remain unprepared to put into effect whatever standards to which they have acceded rhetorically or even legally. The gap between the solemn commitments of nations from the four corners of the world to observe fully the provisions of the four Geneva conventions and their two additional protocols, on the one hand, and their actual performances, on the other, is ever more widening in spite of all attempts by the ICRC to make these conventions and their protocols operational and effective.

The four-year intervals between one ICRC-sponsored international conference and the other to breathe new life into old conventions and treaties seem to be still ineffective even when it comes to the most advanced countries of the world. When it comes to the prosecution of warfare, even the most so-called civilised nations on earth becomes prone to forget their treaty commitments under customary humanitarian law. How to change this international profile must therefore be uppermost on the minds of the organisers of this year's conference. When neither the atrocities and war crimes that were committed in Bosnia nor the crimes against humanity that were perpetrated in Burundi or Chechnya have succeeded in stirring the conscience of the international community into meaningful action, the biggest challenge facing the Geneva meeting becomes how to mobilise stronger and more effective international support for humanitarianism and make man a bit more human when having to fight wars. Let us hope that this week's gathering under the auspices of the ICRC will succeed where all previous periodic conferences have failed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday voiced concern over the democratisation process as a result of present confrontations between the government and the opposition. Mazen Hijazi said both the government and the opposition were responsible for having this process get into a problematic situation. He said mistakes that happened at the start of the democratisation process can only be addressed by more democratic practices. He voiced hope that any reply to some excesses by newspapers will not be a pretext to enacting a press and publications law that would contravene democratic codes. He also voiced hope that any reply to presidents of professional associations who oppose normalising ties between Jordan and Israel would not be a reason for a confrontation between the government and the associations. Mr. Hijazi said Jordan has always overcome difficulties and challenges facing it. He said the Islamic movements, which were violent in other countries, lived peacefully in Jordan and Islamists in Jordan assumed ministerial and parliamentary posts. He said national unity should always be preserved in spite of all challenges. If associations refuse to normalise ties with Israel, so be it and if the Islamists choose to do the same, let them do so, said the writer, who added that Israel and the United States also have their opposition and they use the opposition to serve their purposes. So why is it only us who reveal their cards and do not use them in winning gains from the opposite parties, he asked. He added: We really hope that the government would dedicate its efforts to serving citizens and reducing burdens shouldered by them as well as improving living standards, especially after the promises made after the signing of the (Jordanian-Israeli) peace treaty which unfortunately was followed by speedy and consecutive hikes in the prices of staples and customs duties. He also said that the opposition also ought to care more about citizens and national unity.

Human Rights File

Ensuring better respect for human rights

THE CONVENING of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva today comes against the backdrop of increased disregard for humanitarian law across the globe. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which holds periodic meetings for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has aimed to advance not only the adoption of progressive humanitarian laws but also to implement them in the most effective and faithful manner. After centuries of persistent and dedicated work to ameliorate hardships for mankind, whether from natural disasters or from man-made catastrophes, such as wars and civil strife, mankind is still far from enjoying the full fruits of this humanitarian effort.

The conduct of modern warfare is still as brutal as the execution of oldstyle wars, if not more, due to the introduction of new technologies to instruments of death across the board. The gap between what the international community has legislated for itself as binding rules and guidelines whenever war becomes necessary and what it actually applies is alarmingly wide and getting wider all the time. A glance at most recent armed conflicts, whether in the Balkan or Burundi or Chechnya, would reveal a record of untold savagery that has surpassed anything that man has witnessed in past eras of conflicts. This utter disrespect for humanitarian law would surely figure high on the agenda of the Geneva gathering but the outcome cannot be expected to exceed the usual rhetorical condemnation and renewed oral commitments to humanise armed conflicts on the basis of the norms and standards prescribed by the Geneva Conventions, their two additional protocols and other related conventions. Meanwhile, the

participating governments and national societies of the Red Cross or Red Crescent would most probably remain unimpressed by the new and additional outcries spearheaded by the ICRC itself to end butchery, mass rape, mass murder and indiscriminate killings, as they have demonstrated time and again in the past. After all, there were 25 similar international conferences in the past without succeeding in making as much as a dent in human behaviour when it comes to waging wars. Man is still as inhuman as ever when it comes to fighting a fellow man and would not hesitate to deploy all instruments of death, including mass destruction weapons. Anti-personnel mines are now added to the growing list of weapons that is indiscriminate in their consequences. Soldiers are as obedient as ever to superior order even when their orders are to commit mass murder in cold blood. Rare, if ever, are stories about men of war disobeying their orders even though international law would not only absolve them from responsibility should they disobey unlawful orders but also requests them to do so under the penalty of international humanitarian law.

If all the past efforts are still basically futile in changing the fortunes of humanitarian law, then mankind should target other avenues in a bid to amend the gloomy picture. Increased international observance of wars has not succeeded in the past. ICRC has always tried to maintain an effective presence on the battlefield whenever there is an armed conflict. This presence has yet to show full meaningful results. There must be other ways to implement international norms that have yet to be explored and put into effect. What comes to mind first in the category of

untested new avenues could be the creation of a standing international tribunal on the conduct of warfare under the aegis of the ICRC itself. Such an additional ICRC auxiliary body would enjoy a wide mandate to monitor warring nations during wars with recognisable powers to intercede forthwith whenever there are signs that the rules of war are being repudiated in a systematic way. International observers acting on behalf of this body would perform as referees and watchdogs on every level of warfare. Countries which refuse the presence of such observers or impedes their missions would be quickly identified and become subjects of international sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council. These added activities would naturally cost additional expenses. ICRC would obviously need extra funding in order to carry out these new functions on behalf of mankind.

Admittedly, any such forceful action would probably require the preparation and codification of yet another convention. States which opt to become parties thereto would be required to apply faithfully its provisions. Governments which opt to stay out would be easily identified and then ostracised by the comity of nations. Bilateral and multilateral relations would be formulated and determined by the record of countries vis-a-vis this proposed convention.

Meanwhile, the ICRC, which is the prime mover behind international humanitarian law and functions as an independent humanitarian organisation based on impartiality, neutrality and independence, should be encouraged to speak out more strongly whenever there are grave and systematic violations of humanitarian provisions.

Towards Euro-Mediterranean partnership

Following is the full text of the Barcelona declaration, adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean conference which was held on Nov. 27-28.

THE COUNCIL of the European Union (EU), represented by its president, Javier Solana, minister for foreign affairs of Spain,

The European Commission, represented by Manuel Marin, vice-president,

Klaus Kinkel, vice-chancellor and minister for foreign affairs, Germany, represented by

Mohammad Salah Dembari, minister for foreign affairs, Algeria, represented by

Austria, represented by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, state secretary, ministry of foreign affairs, Austria, represented by

Erik Derycke, minister for foreign affairs, Cyprus, represented by

Alecos Michaelides, minister for foreign affairs, Denmark, represented by

Niels Helveg Petersen, minister for foreign affairs, Egypt, represented by

Amr Musa, minister for foreign affairs, Spain, represented by

Carlos Westendorp, state secretary for relations with the European Community, Finland, represented by

Tarja Halonen, minister for foreign affairs, France, represented by

Hervé de Charette, minister for foreign affairs, Greece, represented by

Károlos Papoulias, minister for foreign affairs, Ireland, represented by

Dick Spring, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, Israel, represented by

Ehud Barak, minister for foreign affairs, Italy, represented by

Ehud Susanna Agnelli, minister for foreign affairs, Jordan, represented by

Abdul Karim Kabarti, minister for foreign affairs, Lebanon, represented by

Fares Bouze, minister for foreign affairs, Luxembourg, represented by

Jacques F. Poos, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, foreign trade and cooperation, Malta, represented by

Guido de Marco, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, Morocco, represented by

Abdul Latif Fihli, prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, The Netherlands, represented by

Hans van Mierlo, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, Portugal, represented by

Jaime Gama, minister for foreign affairs, The United Kingdom, represented by

Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Syria, represented by

Farouk Al-Sharaa, minister for foreign affairs, Sweden, represented by

Lena Hjelm-Wallén, minister for foreign affairs, Tunisia, represented by

Habib Ben Yahia, minister for foreign affairs, Turkey, represented by

Deniz Baykal, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, The Palestinian Authority, represented by

Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority.

Taking part in the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona:

— stressing the strategic importance of the Mediterranean and moved by the will to give their future relations a new dimension, based on comprehensive cooperation and solidarity, in keeping with the privileged nature of the links forged by neighbourhood and history;

— aware that the new political, economic and social issues on both sides of the Mediterranean constitute common challenges calling for a coordinated overall response;

— resolved to establish to that end a multilateral and lasting framework of relations based on a spirit of partnership, with due regard for the characteristics, values and distinguishing features peculiar to each of the participants;

— regarding this multilateral framework as the counterpart to a strengthening of bilateral relations which it is important to safeguard, while laying stress on their specific nature;

— stressing that this Euro-Mediterranean initiative is not intended to replace the other activities and initiatives undertaken in the interests of the peace, stability and development of the region, but that it will contribute to their success.

The parties agree to establish a strengthening of democracy and a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and principles mentioned in the letter of invitation to the Madrid Middle East Peace Conference, including the principle of land for peace, with all that this implies;

— convinced that the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchange and cooperation guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity requires a strengthening of democracy and respect for human rights, sustainable and balanced economic and social development, measures to combat poverty and promotion of greater understanding between cultures, which are all essential aspects of partnership.

Having agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership among the participants — the Euro-Mediterranean partnership — through strengthened political dialogue on a regular basis, the development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimension, these being the three aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

Political and security partnership: Establishing a common area of peace and stability

The participants express their conviction that the peace, stability and security of the Mediterranean region are a common asset which they plan to promote and strengthen by all means at their disposal. To this end they agree to conduct a strengthened political dialogue at regular intervals, based on observance of essential principles of international law, and reaffirm a number of common objectives in matters of internal and external stability.

In this spirit they undertake in the following declaration of principles to:

— act in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other obligations under international law, in particular those arising out of regional and international instruments to which they are party;

— develop the rule of law and democracy in their political systems, while recognising in this framework the right of each of them to choose and freely develop its own political, social, cultural, economic and judicial system;

— respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and guarantee the effective legitimate exercise of such rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of association for peaceful purposes and freedom of thought, conscience and religion, both individually and together with other members of the same group, without any discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, language, religion or sex;

— give favourable consideration, through dialogue between the parties, to exchanges of information on matters relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, racism and xenophobia;

— respect and ensure respect for diversity and pluralism in their societies, promote tolerance between different groups in society and combat manifestations of intolerance, racism and xenophobia. The participants stress the importance of proper education in the matter of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

— respect their sovereign equality and all rights inherent in their sovereignty, and fulfil in good faith the obligations they have assumed under international law;

— respect the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination, acting at all times in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of states, as reflected in agreements between relevant parties;

— refrain, in accordance with the rules of international law, from any direct or indirect intervention in the internal affairs of another party;

— respect the territorial integrity and unity of each of the other parties;

— settle their disputes by peaceful means, call upon all participants to renounce recourse to the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of another participant, including the acquisition of territory by force, and reaffirm the right to fully exercise sovereignty by legitimate means in accordance with the U.N. Charter and international law;

— strengthen their cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism, in particular by ratifying and applying the international instruments they have signed, by according to such instruments and by taking any other appropriate measure;

— fight together against the expansion and diversification of organised crime and combat the drugs problem in all its aspects;

— promote regional security by acting, inter alia, in favour of nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation through adherence to and compliance with a combination of international and regional non-proliferation regimes, and arms control and disarmament agreements such as NPT, CWC, BWC, CTBT and/or regional arrangements such as weapons free zones including their verification regimes, as well as by fulfilling in good faith their commitments under arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation conventions.

The parties shall pursue a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems.

Furthermore the parties will consider practical steps to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as excessive accumulation of conventional arms.

Refrain from developing military capacity beyond their legitimate defence requirements, at the same time reaffirming their resolve to achieve the same degree of security and mutual confidence with the lowest possible levels of troops and weaponry and adherence to CCW.

Promote conditions likely to develop good-neighbourly relations among themselves and support processes aimed at stability, security, prosperity and regional and sub-regional cooperation.

— consider any confidence and security-building measures that could be taken between the parties with a view to the creation of an "area of peace and stability in the Mediterranean," including the long-term possibility of establishing a Euro-Mediterranean pact to that end.

Economic and financial partnership: Creating an area of shared prosperity

The participants emphasise the importance they attach to sustainable and balanced economic and social development with a view to achieving their objective of creating an area of shared prosperity.

The partners acknowledge the difficulties that the question of debt can create for the economic development of the countries of the Mediterranean region. They agree, in view of the importance of their relations, to continue the dialogue in order to achieve progress in the competent fora.

Noting that the partners have to take up common challenges, albeit to varying degrees, the participants set themselves the following long-term objectives:

— acceleration of the pace of sustainable socio-economic development;

— improvement of the living conditions of their populations; increase in the employment level and reduction in the development gap in the Euro-Mediterranean region;

— encouragement of regional cooperation and integration.

With a view to achieving these objectives, the participants agree to establish an economic and financial partnership which, taking into account the different degrees of development, will be based on:

— the progressive establishment of a free-trade area;

— the implementation of appropriate economic cooperation and concerted action in the relevant areas;

— a substantial increase in the European Union's financial assistance to its partners.

a) Free trade area

The free-trade area will be established through the new Euro-Mediterranean agreements and free-trade agreements between partners of the European Union. The parties have set 2010 as the target date for the gradual establishment of this area which will cover most trade with due observance of the obligations resulting from the WTO.

With a view to developing gradual free trade in this area: Tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in manufactured products will be progressively eliminated in accordance with timetables to be negotiated between the partners; taking as a starting point traditional trade flows, and as far as the various agricultural policies allow and with due respect to the results achieved within the GATT negotiations, trade in agricultural products will be progressively liberalised through reciprocal preferential access among the parties; trade in services including right of establishment will be progressively liberalised having due regard to the GATT agreement.

The participants decide to facilitate the progressive establishment of this free-trade area through:

— the adoption of suitable measures as regard rules of origin, certification, protection of intellectual and industrial property rights and competition;

— the pursuit and the development of policies based on the principles of market economy and the integration of their economies taking into account their respective needs and levels of development;

— the adjustment and modernisation of economic and social structures, giving priority to the promotion and development of the private sector, to the upgrading of the productive sector and to the establishment of an appropriate institutional and regulatory framework for a market economy. They will likewise endeavour to mitigate the negative social consequences which may result from this adjustment, by promoting programmes for the benefit of the neediest populations;

— the promotion of mechanisms to foster transfers of technology.

b) Economic cooperation and concerted action

Cooperation will be developed in particular in the areas listed below and in this respect the parties

(Continued on page 7)

LETTERS

Solid buildings

To the Editor:

AS A retired lecturer in civil engineering and construction management who have recently come to live in Jordan, I was already impressed by present planning and development of roads and housing estates in Aqaba. But now I am amazed at the way high rise building construction withstood the 6.2 Richter scale earthquake of Nov. 22.

I was standing near a window in my second floor flat when the tremor started and found the building swaying like a tree in high winds, the movement exceeding two degrees at my level. The reinforced concrete floor rippled in small waves underfoot and a bookcase with glass doors crashed to the floor before the movement eventually subsided.

Now all of this isn't remarkable in itself. But subsequent tremors on that and following days, of between 3.5 and 4 on the Richter scale, showed that the building still retained its original flexibility. Furthermore, by a cursory examination of the building, I could see no sign of structural damage. This surely proves a standard of both design and construction which will be envied by many other countries in an earthquake zone. A high dependence on the ratio of reinforcing bar in concrete slabs, together with the allowance of suitable flexible joints in this case, has proved a great asset to the occupants of such buildings. I say well done Jordanian civil and construction engineers.

Paul Saint,
Aqaba.

Remembering Wasfi Tell

To the Editor:

I WAS very touched by Dalia Al Jabri's account of her deceased uncle, "Wasfi — a private memory," (Jordan Times, Nov. 30). In recounting this most personal of recollections, she has illuminated an entire dimension of this man that not everyone is sufficiently aware of; his deep human qualities. All who attended the seminar on the late Wasfi Tell on Tuesday November 28th must have noticed and felt the intensity of involvement of speakers and audience alike. Rather, not audience, but people who came to share in the tribute being paid to Wasfi Pasha. The late Prime Minister meant different things to different people; to many, he was a personal friend, a loyal brother. To others, he was a remarkable statesman who gives them, till this day, inspiration. Others, perhaps reserved in their esteem for him, consider him controversial at best. What was by far the most interesting aspect in the gathering, however, was seeing a significant turnout by members of a younger generation who never knew Wasfi, but who later learnt of "Wasfi the Phenomenon." They evidently attended to learn more about him, for he, in some way or other, helped shape the Jordan they come to know.

Mahmoud Izzidin Al Mufti,
Amman.

Invisible demonstrators

The following letter, written by Palestinian journalist Daoud Kantab, is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

FOR A COUPLE of months now, a number of right-wing Jewish settlers have been demonstrating outside Orient House in East Jerusalem, calling the Israeli government to close it down.

These demonstrators have been provided with shelter, water and other essentials by Ehud Olmert's municipality. During the past two months the demonstrators have practically abandoned this location. And since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, they have not showed up once. Yet the municipality and the police are still providing shelter and protection to an empty protest site. Palestinian children have to cross the street to reach their schools because of the large sidewalk space that is taken over by these absent demonstrators.

While this site in East Jerusalem receives the above services, tax-paying Palestinians are not so lucky. Just one example of municipality and police apathy is outside Shmids Girls School where greedy taxi and bus drivers delay traffic. This school, which recently celebrated 100 years, is unable to obtain the basic help of police moving traffic in order to allow parents, teachers and students to cross 100 metres in less than 20 minutes.

It seems clear that the Israeli police priorities are focused on pleasing these invisible demonstrators at the expense of Palestinian students, who ironically attend schools that are the responsibility of the Jerusalem municipality.

This non-existent demonstration must be stopped in order to allow the public to live a normal life. Otherwise it would seem that this demonstration site is being targeted as yet one more Israeli settlement on Palestinian territory.

Towards Euro-Mediterranean partnership Barcelona Declaration covers cooperation in social, economic, political domains

(Continued from page 6)

Participants:

- acknowledge that economic development must be supported both by internal savings, the basis of investment, and by direct foreign investment. They stress the importance of creating an environment conducive to investment, in particular by the progressive elimination of obstacles to such investment which could lead to the transfer of technology and increase production and exports;

- affirm that regional cooperation on a voluntary basis, particularly with a view to developing trade between the partners themselves, is a key factor in promoting the creation of a free-trade area;

- encourage enterprises to enter into agreements with each other and undertake to promote such cooperation and industrial modernisation by providing a favourable environment and regulatory framework. They consider it necessary to adopt and to implement a technical support programme for SMEs;

- emphasise their interdependence with regard to the environment, which necessitates a regional approach and increased cooperation, as well as better coordination of existing multilateral programmes, while confirming their attachment to the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan. They recognise the importance of reconciling economic development with environmental protection, of integrating environmental concerns into the relevant aspects of economic policy and of mitigating the negative environmental consequences which might result. They undertake to establish a short and medium-term priority action programme, including in connection with combating desertification, and to concentrate appropriate technical and financial support on those actions;

- recognise the key role of women in development and undertake to promote their active participation in economic and social life and in the creation of employment;

- stress the importance of the conservation and rational management of fish stocks and of the improvement of cooperation on research into stocks, including aquaculture, and undertake to facilitate scientific training and research and to envisage creating joint institutions;

- acknowledge the pivotal role of the energy sector in the economic Euro-Mediterranean partnership and decide to strengthen cooperation and intensify dialogue in the field of energy policies. They also decide to create the appropriate framework conditions for investments and the activities to energy companies, cooperating in creating the conditions enabling energy networks and promote link-ups;

- recognise that water supply together with suitable management and development of resources are priority issues for all Mediterranean partners and that cooperation should be developed in these areas;

- agree to cooperate in modernising and restructuring agriculture and in promoting integrated rural development. This cooperation will focus in particular on technical assistance and training in support for policies implemented by the partners to diversify production, on the reduction of food dependency and on the promotion of environment-friendly agriculture. They also agree to cooperate in the eradication of illicit crops and the development of any regions affected;

- The participants also agree to cooperate in other areas and, to that effect:

- stress the importance of developing and improving infrastructure, including through the establishment of an efficient transport system, the development of information technologies and the modernisation of telecommunications. They agree to draw up a programme of priorities for that purpose;

- undertake to respect the principles of international maritime law, in particular freedom of navigation, and to provide services in international transport and free access to international cargoes. The results of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations on maritime transport services being conducted within the WTO will be taken into account when agreed;

- undertake to encourage cooperation between local authorities and in support of regional planning;

- recognising that science and technology have a significant influence on socio-economic development, agree to strengthen scientific research capacity and development, contribute to the training of scientific and technical staff and promote participation in joint research projects based on the creation of scientific networks;

- agree to promote cooperation on statistics in order to harmonise methods and exchange data.

c) Financial cooperation

The participants consider that the creation of a free-trade area and the success of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership require a substantial increase in financial assistance, which must also encourage sustainable indigenous development and the mobilisation of local economic operators. They note in this connection that:

- the Cannes European Council agreed to set aside ECU 4685 million for this financial assistance in the form of available Community budget funds for the period 1995-1999. This will be supplemented by EIB

assistance in the form of increased loans and the bilateral financial contributions from the member states;

- effective financial cooperation managed in the framework of a multilateral programme, taking into account the special characteristics of each of the partners is necessary;

- sound macro-economic management is of fundamental importance in ensuring the success of the partnership. To this end they agree to promote dialogue on their respective economic policies and on the method of optimising financial cooperation.

Partnership in social, cultural and human affairs: Developing human resources, promoting understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies

The participants recognise that the traditions of culture and civilisation throughout the Mediterranean region, dialogue between these cultures and exchanges at human, scientific and technological level are an essential factor in bringing their peoples closer, promoting understanding between them and improving their perception of each other.

In this spirit, the participants agree to establish a partnership in social, cultural and human affairs. To this end:

- they reaffirm that dialogue and respect between cultures and religions are a necessary precondition for bringing the peoples closer. In this connection they stress the importance of the role the mass media can play in the reciprocal recognition and understanding of cultures as a source of mutual enrichment;

- they stress the essential nature of the development of human resources, both as regards the education and training of young people in particular and in the area of culture. They express their intent to promote cultural exchanges and knowledge of other languages, respecting the cultural identity of each partner, and to implement a lasting policy of educational and cultural programmes; in this context, the partners undertake to adopt measures to facilitate human exchanges, in particular by improving administrative procedures;

- they underline the importance of the health sector for sustainable development and express their intention of promoting the effective participation of the community in operations to improve health and well-being;

- they recognise the importance of social development which, in their view, must go hand in hand with any economic development. They attach particular importance to respect for fundamental social rights, including the right to development;

- they recognise the essential contribution civil society can make in the process of development of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and as an essential factor for greater understanding and closeness between peoples;

- they accordingly agree to strengthen and/or introduce the necessary instruments of decentralised cooperation to encourage exchanges between those active in development within the framework of national laws; Leaders of political and civil society, the cultural and religious community, the media, organisations, the trade unions and public and private initiatives;

- they will encourage actions of support for democratic institutions and for the strengthening of the rule of law and civil society;

- they recognise that current population trends represent a priority challenge which must be counterbalanced by appropriate policies to accelerate economic take-off;

- they acknowledge the importance of the role played by migration in their relationships. They agree to strengthen their cooperation to reduce migratory pressures, among other things through vocational training programmes and programmes of assistance for job creation. They undertake to guarantee protection of all the rights recognised under existing legislation of migrants legally resident in their respective territories;

- in the area of illegal immigration they decide to establish closer cooperation. In this context, the partners, aware of their responsibility for readmission, agree to adopt the relevant provisions and measures, by means of bilateral agreements or arrangements, in order to readmit their nationals who are in an illegal situation. To that end, the member states of the European Union take citizens to mean nationals of the member states, as defined for community purposes;

- they agree to strengthen cooperation by means of various measures to prevent terrorism and fight it more effectively together;

- by the same token they consider it necessary to fight jointly and effectively against drug trafficking, international crime and corruption;

- they underline the importance of waging a determined campaign against racism, xenophobia and intolerance and agree to cooperate to that end.

Follow-up to the conference

The participants:

- considering that the Barcelona Conference provides the basis for a process, which is open and should develop;

- reaffirming their will to establish a partnership based on the principles and objectives defined in this declaration;

- resolved to give practical expression to this Euro-Mediterranean partnership;

- convinced that, in order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to continue the comprehensive dialogue thus initiated and to carry out a series of specific actions;

- hereby adopt the attached work programme.

The ministers for foreign affairs will meet periodically in order to monitor the application of this declaration and define actions enabling the objectives of the partnership to be achieved.

The various activities will be followed by ad hoc thematic meetings of ministers, senior officials and experts, exchanges of experience and information, contacts between those active in civil society and by any other appropriate means.

Contacts between parliamentarians, regional authorities, local authorities and the social partners will be encouraged.

A "Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process" at senior-official level, consisting of the European Union Troika and one representative of each Mediterranean partner, will hold regular meetings to prepare the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, take stock of and evaluate the follow-up to the Barcelona process and all its components and update the work programme.

Appropriate preparatory and follow-up work for the meetings resulting from the Barcelona work programme and from the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process will be undertaken by the Commission departments.

The next meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs will be held in the first semester of 1997 in one of the 12 Mediterranean partners of the European Union, to be determined through further consultations.

Work programme

I. Introduction

The aim of this programme is to implement the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration, and to respect its principles, through regional and multilateral actions. It is complementary both to the bilateral cooperation, implemented in particular under the agreements between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, and to the cooperation already existing in other multilateral fora.

The preparation and the follow-up to the various actions will be implemented in accordance with the principles and mechanisms set out in the Barcelona Declaration.

The priority actions for further cooperation are listed below. This does not exclude Euro-Mediterranean cooperation being extended to other actions if the partners so agree.

The actions may apply to states, their local and regional authorities as well as actors of their civil society.

With the agreement of the participants, other countries or organisations may be involved in the actions contained in the work programmes. The implementation must take place in a flexible and transparent way.

With the agreement of the participants, future Euro-Mediterranean cooperation will take account, as appropriate, of the opinions and recommendations resulting from the relevant discussions held at various levels in the region.

The implementation of the programme should start as soon as practical after the Barcelona Conference. It will be reviewed at the next Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the basis of reports from the various meetings and groups mentioned below, and approved by the "Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process" set up by the Barcelona Declaration.

II. Political and Security Partnership: Establishing a common area of peace and stability

With a view to contributing to the objective of progressively creating a zone of peace, stability and security in the Mediterranean, senior officials will meet periodically, starting within the first quarter of 1996. They will:

- conduct a political dialogue to examine the most appropriate means and methods of implementing the principles

- adopted by the Barcelona Declaration, and

- submit practical proposals in due time for the next Euro-Mediterranean meeting of foreign ministers.

Foreign policy institutes in the Euro-Mediterranean region will be encouraged to establish a network for more intensive cooperation which could become operational as of 1996.

III. Economic and Financial Partnership: Building a zone of shared prosperity

Meetings will take place periodically at the level of ministers, officials or experts, as appropriate, to promote cooperation in the following areas:

- needed to give practical expression to this Euro-Mediterranean partnership;

- convinced that, in order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to continue the comprehensive dialogue thus initiated and to carry out a series of specific actions;

- hereby adopt the attached work programme.

The ministers for foreign affairs will meet periodically in order to monitor the application of this declaration and define actions enabling the objectives of the partnership to be achieved.

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Transport

Efficient interoperable transport links between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, and among the partners themselves, as well as free access to the market for services in international maritime transport, are essential to the development of trade patterns and the smooth operation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

The Transport Ministers of Western Mediterranean countries met twice in 1995 and, following the Regional Conference for the Development of Maritime Transport in the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Waterborne Transport Working Group adopted a multi-annual programme.

Cooperation will focus on:

- development of an efficient Trans-Mediterranean multimodal combined sea and air transport system, through the improvement and modernisation of ports and airports, the suppression of unwarranted restrictions, the simplification of procedures, the improvement of maritime and air safety, the harmonisation of environmental standards at a high level including more efficient monitoring of maritime pollution, and the development of harmonised traffic management systems;

- development of east-west land links on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, and

- connection of Mediterranean transport networks to the Trans-European Network in order to ensure their interoperability.

Energy

A high-level conference was held in Tunisia in 1995 with a follow-up meeting in Athens and an Energy Conference in Madrid in Nov. 20, 1995.

With a view to creating appropriate conditions for investment in and activities by energy companies, future cooperation will focus, inter alia on:

- fostering the association of Mediterranean countries with the treaty on the European Energy Charter;

- energy planning;

- encouraging producer-consumer dialogue;

- oil and gas exploration, refining, transportation, distribution, and regional and trans-regional trade;

- coal production and handling;

- generation and transmission of power and interconnection and development of networks;

- energy efficiency;

- new and renewable sources of energy;

- energy-related environmental issues;

- development of joint research programmes;

- training and information activities in the energy sector.

Telecommunications and information technology

With a view to developing a modern, efficient telecommunications network, cooperation will focus on:

- information and telecommunications infrastructure (minimum regulatory framework, standards, conformity testing, network interoperability, etc.);

- regional infrastructures including links with European networks;

- access to services, and

- new services in priority fields of application.

Intensification of Euro-Mediterranean exchanges and access to the nascent information society will be facilitated by more efficient information and telecommunications infrastructures.

A regional conference is planned for 1996 with the aim of paving the way for pilot projects to show the concrete benefits of the information society.

Regional planning

Cooperation will focus on:

- defining a regional planning strategy for the Euro-Mediterranean area commensurate with the countries' requirements and special features;

- promoting cross-border cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Tourism

The ministers of tourism, meeting in Casablanca, adopted the Mediterranean Tourism Charter in 1995. The cooperation actions to be initiated will relate in particular to information, promotion and training:

- support for privatisation;

- technical assistance and training;

- harmonisation of plant-health and veterinary standards;

- integrated rural development, including improvement of basic services and the development of associated economic activities;

- cooperation among rural regions, exchange of experience and know-how concerning rural development;

- development of regions affected by the eradication of illicit crops.

Areas; management of waste; preventing and combating air pollution and pollution in the Mediterranean Sea; natural heritage, landscapes and site conservation and management; Mediterranean forest protection, conservation and restoration, in particular through the prevention and control of erosion, soil degradation, forest fires and combating desertification; transfer of community experience in financing techniques, legislation and environmental monitoring; integration of environmental concerns in all policies;

- setting up a regular dialogue to monitor the implementation of the action programme;

- reinforcing regional and subregional cooperation and strengthening coordination with the Mediterranean Action Plan;

- stimulating coordination of investments from various sources and implementation of relevant international conventions;

- promoting the adoption and implementation of legislation and regulatory measures when required, especially preventive measures and appropriate high standards.

Science and technology

Cooperation will focus on:

- promoting research and development and tackling the problem of the widening gap in scientific achievement, taking account of the principle of mutual advantage;

- stepping up exchanges of experience in the scientific sectors and policies which might best enable the Mediterranean partners to reduce the gap between them and their European neighbours and to promote the transfer of technology;

- helping train scientific and technical staff by increasing participation in joint research projects.

Following the ministerial meeting at Sophia Antipolis in March 1995, a Monitoring Committee was set up; this committee will meet for the first time immediately after the Barcelona Conference. It will focus on making recommendations for the joint implementation of the policy priorities agreed at ministerial level.

Water

The Mediterranean Water Charter was adopted in Rome in 1992.

Water is a priority issue for all the Mediterranean partners and will gain in importance as water scarcity becomes more pressing. The purpose of cooperation in this area will be as follows:

- to take stock of the situation taking into account current and future needs;

- to identify ways of reinforcing regional cooperation;

- to make proposals for rationalising the planning and management of water resources, where appropriate on a joint basis;

- to contribute towards the creation of new sources of water.

Fisheries

In view of the importance of conservation and rational management of Mediterranean fish stocks, cooperation in the framework of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean will be reinforced.

Following the Ministerial Fisheries Conference held in Heraklion in 1994, appropriate follow-up action will be taken in the legal sphere through meetings to take place in 1996.

Cooperation will be improved on research into fish stocks, including aquaculture, as well as into training and scientific research.

IV. Partnership in social, cultural and human resources, promoting understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies

Development of human resources

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership must contribute to enhancing educational levels throughout the region, whilst laying special emphasis on the Mediterranean partners. To this end, a regular dialogue on educational policies will take place, initially focusing on vocational training, technology in education, the universities and other higher-education establishments and research. In this context as well as in other areas, particular attention will be paid to the role of women. The Euro-Arab Business School in Granada and the European Foundation in Turin will also contribute to this cooperation.

A meeting of representatives of the vocational training sector (policy makers, academics, trainers, etc.) will be organised with the aim of sharing modern management approaches.

A meeting will be held of representatives of universities and higher-education establishments. The European Commission will strengthen its ongoing

the partners attach particular importance to the respect and promotion of basic social rights. To that end, actions in social policies will meet periodically at the appropriate level.

Health

The partners agree to concentrate cooperation in this area on:

- action on raising awareness, information and prevention;

- development of public health services, in particular health care, primary health care, primary health centres, maternal and child health care services, family planning, epidemiological supervision systems and measures to control communicable diseases;

- training of health and health-administration personnel;

- medical cooperation in the event of natural disasters.

Migration

Given the importance of the issue of migration for Euro-Mediterranean relations, meetings will be encouraged in order to make proposals concerning migration flows and pressures. These meetings will take account of experience acquired, inter alia, under the MED-Migration programme, particularly as regards improving the living conditions of migrants legally established in the Union.

Terrorism

— Drug trafficking, organised crime

Fighting terrorism will have to be a priority for all the parties. To that end, officials will meet periodically with the aim of strengthening cooperation among police, judicial and other authorities. In this context, consideration will be given, in particular, to stepping up exchanges of information and improving extradition procedures.

Officials will meet periodically to discuss practical measures which can be taken to improve cooperation among police, judicial, customs, administrative and other authorities in order to combat, in particular, drug trafficking and organised crime, including smuggling.

All these meetings will be organised with due regard for the need for a differentiated approach that takes into account the diversity of the situation in each country.

Illegal immigration

Officials will meet periodically to discuss practical measures which can be taken to improve cooperation among police, judicial, customs, administrative and other authorities in order to combat illegal immigration.

These meetings will be organised with due regard for the need for a differentiated approach that takes into account the diversity of the situation in each country.

V. Institutional contacts

Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Dialogue

An Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean was held in Valletta from November 1-4, 1995. The European Parliament is invited to take the initiative with other parliaments concerning the future Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Dialogue, which could enable the elected representatives of the partners to exchange ideas on a wide range of issues.

Other institutional contacts

Regular contacts among other European organs, in particular the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community, and their Mediterranean counterparts, would contribute to a better understanding of the major issues relevant in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

To this end, the Economic and Social Committee is invited to take the initiative in establishing links with its Mediterranean counterparts and equivalent bodies. In this context, a Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Economic and Social Committees and equivalent bodies will take place in Madrid on December 12-13.

French minister ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

French government respected the accord initiated in Dayton, Ohio, last month and was actively involved in efforts for its full implementation.

"We cannot tolerate more or less personal commentaries from any civil or military authority on the Dayton agreement," said Mr. Millon on the comments made by General Jean Rene Bachelet that the peace accord would divide Sarajevo and French troops would be left "directing traffic" in the city while chaos prevailed elsewhere.

Mr. Millon called for the release of French pilots reportedly seized by Bosnian Serbs after their plane was downed while flying a reconnaissance mission over Bosnia-Herzegovina on Aug. 30.

The French government was in "contact with all parties" over the issue and hoped that the two would be released as the peace accord

is implemented, he added.

He did not refer to reports that the Bosnian Serbs were offering to release the two in return for French help to ensure that Serb-controlled areas of Sarajevo would not come under the control of a Muslim-Croat federation as envisaged in the Dayton agreement.

The minister said France was contributing 10,000 soldiers to the 60,000-strong North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) force that is poised to take over peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia from the United Nations and that 7,500 of the French soldiers "will actually be deployed in the field, including suburbs of Sarajevo" (and) Mostar."

Noting the prominent role that Jordan played in the United Nations peacekeeping force in ex-Yugoslavia, Mr. Millon said Paris and Amman "will continue consultations" on how the Kingdom could contribute further to peace in the Balkans.

the partners attach particular importance to the respect

Saudi private sector under fire over foreign labour

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's interior minister accused the private sector of undermining the domestic economy by failing to employ enough Saudis when he opened a seminar on job nationalisation Sunday.

Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz said there should be measures to force the private sector to take more Saudi employees to achieve the targets of the 1995-1999 development plan which calls for creating nearly 660,000 jobs.

"Employment of Saudis has become a national strategy which must be implemented. Figures show that the participation in this strategy by the private sector does not conform to national objectives," he said.

"We should ask about the role of the private sector in developing the national economy and absorb Saudi workers... When we look at thousands of millions of riyals that have been spent on the private sector, we should ask:

Where is the technology that has been brought in by that sector through the massive profits it has made from government projects?", the prince added.

Like other Arab Gulf oil producers, Saudi Arabia is suffering from excessive foreign labour that began to stream in after oil was discovered some decades ago and turned the desert into one of the richest regions.

The problem is more underscored in such countries as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where expatriates account for more than 80 per cent of the total workforce despite attempts to ease reliance on foreigners.

The private sector in most regional states has been criticised or preferring foreign workers on the grounds they accept less wages and are more skilled.

Prince Nayef, also chairman of the state Manpower Council, said large sums of money were being siphoned out of Saudi Arabia in the

form of remittances by expatriate workers, mostly Arabs and south Asians.

"Continuation of bringing non-Saudi labour will naturally increase difficulties facing nationals seeking jobs," he said.

"We all realise that in order to prompt the private sector to complement our responsibility in finding jobs for thousands of Saudi graduates from universities and institutes, we should develop the legislative environment for the private sector to motivate it into employing more Saudis," he emphasised.

He called for incentives for private institutions which nationalise their jobs by giving them priority in local projects.

Prince Nayef's figures showed Saudis accounted for only four per cent of the total workforce in the non-oil industrial sector and 12 per cent in the services sector. In the past five years, non-Saudi workers in the private sector nearly doubled while around 500,000 foreigners joined the

labour market in 1994.

"We need to reevaluate our labour needs and its sources... Our society has changed and if we look at how illiterate it was in the past and how it has become today, we can realise the progress we have made," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, an official report said that Saudi Arabia has spent more than a trillion dollars over the past 25 years to face domestic development needs and expand its non-oil sector.

The expenditure did not include loans and grants to farming, industry and other sectors, estimated at more than 258 billion Saudi riyals (\$68.8 billion), said the report carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The report also said the previous five development plans said government spending totalled 3,869 billion riyals (\$1,031 billion), covering infrastructure, health, education and other development projects.

investments have contributed to pushing the economic and social development march in the country," it said.

SPA gave no breakdown but the biggest part of the expenditure was made during the oil boom of late 1970s and early 1980s, when crude prices were nearly double their present level and Saudi output peaked at 12 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with eight million b/d currently.

Previous official reports showed Saudi government spending averaged more than \$60 billion a year during the oil boom, far higher than the present expenditure of around \$40 billion a year.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil power, approved its sixth five-year plan this year, with spending projected at \$200 billion until its end in 1999. The low expenditure was intended to restore balance to the budget that has suffered from a large deficit due to weak crude prices.

The plan was the most radical development scheme

in Saudi history as it involves sweeping reforms, including privatisation of key public institutions.

It set a growth target of 3.8 per cent in fixed prices and investment of 15.9 per cent, to rise to 19 per cent at the end of the plan.

Officials hope such growth rates and government policies to replace foreign workers with Saudis would create nearly 659,900 job opportunities.

SPA said the high expenditure during the past five development plans boosted the gross domestic product (GDP) by more than four times while the non-oil sector's share in the GDP surged to 67 per cent from 53 per cent.

Non-oil revenues also increased to 22 per cent from 16 per cent of the total income and non-oil exports jumped from a negligible level to more than 15 billion riyals (\$4 billion) due to a surge in petrochemical sales.

France faces social crisis as strike escalates

PARIS (AFP) — France faces its worst social crisis in decades as a transport strike which has paralysed the country for 10 days appears set to widen into an all-out public and private sector protest over government austerity measures.

Teachers, hospital staff, civil servants and airline staff are among groups threatening to join the strike action which already rallied post and public power utility workers alongside the railmen at the end of last week.

Two of France's three key unions — the independent Force Ouvrière (F.O.) and the communist-led CGT — have called for the strike action to be widened into a general strike to protest Prime Minister Alain Juppé's austerity programme.

If the call for wider action is heeded the strike will become worse than the transport strike of 1986 which paralysed the country for 29 days, sparking comparisons with the month of national unrest which followed the May 1968 student revolts.

The government Sunday announced emergency plans to ease the travel nightmare with alternative travel arrangements for the Paris region, including using the Bateaux Mouches tourist boats on the Seine to ferry commuters to work.

Financial markets are increasingly alarmed by the crisis, sparked by various tough measures designed to cut France's public deficits in time for it to join the EU partners in a monetary union by the end of the decade.

Business is increasingly being hit by the paralysed transport infrastructure. All

eyes will be on the franc and the Paris bourse as the stand-off develops during the week.

"The unions and the government agree on one thing at least: The week ahead will be hard, very hard," said the weekly Journal du Dimanche (JDD) Sunday, summing up the crisis facing Mr. Juppé.

Last week brought chaos nationwide as 180,000 workers for the SNCF national rail authority walked out to protest plans to restructure the state-run network to cut its huge deficit.

Their action was joined by RATP Paris bus and metro workers, postal employees and the EDF-GDF gas and power utilities, in protests over individual grievances and over controversial welfare reform plans announced by Mr. Juppé.

The call for wider action this week focuses on anger at Mr. Juppé's reforms, with F.O. leader Marc Blondel calling for "a generalisation of the action to demand the withdrawal of the Mr. Juppé plan" from Monday.

"I will ask all sectors to go on strike one after the other," he said, singling out the customs services, tax offices, hospitals and infrastructure repair and maintenance units.

The CGT meanwhile plans a "day of action" Tuesday, including another mass demonstration, as discontent continued to spread. New sectors likely to be hit include road and air transport, the ports and the banks. Air France and Air Inter cabin crew are threatening to join the action from Thursday.

Israel committee recommends banks sell off assets

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A government-appointed committee recommended Sunday that powerful state-controlled banks sell off large chunks of their assets in non-financial companies.

The move could affect the privatisation of the country's

leading banks — Hapoalim and Leumi — which own major stakes in many of Israel's leading companies.

The main recommendation would require banks to reduce their holdings in any single non-financial company to a maximum 20 per cent.

Another important recommendation calls for

Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, to sell by the end of 1998 its stake in either Koor Industries or Clal Israel, two of Israel's most powerful holding concerns.

Bank Hapoalim owns 25 per cent of Koor, Israel's biggest industrial concern, and 36 per cent of Clal.

The recommendations were presented to a special ministerial committee that has two weeks to decide whether to adopt the measures, several of which require legislation.

The committee, led by finance ministry director general David Brodett, was created to study the bank's power in Israeli industry.

Two years ago the government decided banks must reduce their holdings to no more than 25 per cent of any non-financial company by 1996. But the Bank of Israel argued this was not enough as the banks could still retain control even with smaller stakes.

The debate over concentration of power was revived during the current privatisation process of Bank Hapoalim, Israel's biggest bank.

Two groups are bidding for a controlling stake. One is led

by the Renaissance Fund and includes Charles Bronfman of Canada, George Soros, Ted Arison of Carnival Cruise Lines and Goldman Sachs.

The other group includes Israeli tycoon Eliezer Fishman and Bear Stearns. Members of the bidding groups have been quoted in the Israeli press as saying that a forced sale of assets would make the banks far less attractive.

Mr. Brodett said he did not believe the adoption of these measures would delay the sale of Hapoalim but he could not predict the effect on the price.

He added: "If the bidders decided to withdraw as a result of the recommendations, then we will recommend the government sell the bank through the options programme."

He referred to a government plan to distribute stock

options in state companies to the Israeli public.

The committee also recommended the banks gradually reduce their total non-financial holdings as a percentage of total capital to 15 per cent by 2001.

The banks would only be able to appoint 20 per cent of the directors in a commercial company and could not appoint the chairman of board or any senior manager. Nor would the banks have veto rights on any management decisions.

As the banks reduce their holdings to 20 per cent from 25 per cent they would be required to distribute the proceeds as a dividend to all shareholders.

Overseas Filipinos sent home record \$2.2b in 6 months

MANILA (R) — Filipino workers overseas remitted home a record \$2.21 billion during the first six months of this year in a major boost to the Philippine economy, a lawmaker said Sunday.

The amount almost equaled the \$2.27 billion they remitted for the whole of 1993 and about 75 per cent of the \$3 billion they sent home for all of 1994, senator Ernesto Herrera said.

He estimated total remittances by the workers for this year would reach \$4.2 billion. "It is pretty obvious that the economy, to a large extent, is being propped up by these remittances," he said, adding this was alarming because "at any time, these external inflows can evaporate due to factors beyond our control."

He cited the case of the

Gulf crisis when thousands of Filipinos trooped back home to avoid being caught in the war.

About four million Filipinos work overseas, remitting an estimated total of more than \$6 billion annually.

Officials said Mr. Herrera's figures only included money remitted through the banks and did not include amounts sent through unofficial channels, such as friends, or by mail. They also did not include money the workers brought home themselves when they returned to the country on vacation.

Mr. Herrera said the bulk of the remittances came from the United States, where thousands of Filipinos work as doctors and nurses, and from Asia, primarily Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, where thousands more work

as maids and night club entertainers.

President Fidel Ramos last month approved a code to strengthen assistance by Philippine diplomats abroad to Filipino workers in distress.

A palace statement said the set of guidelines calls for a "country-team approach" in helping Filipino overseas workers who run into trouble in their host countries.

More than two million Filipinos have sought work abroad due to poverty at home, according to the government, although non-government organisations say the true figure is probably more than four million.

Labour officials are to take care of work-related problems including non-payment of salaries, while consulates will address police cases such as arrests and detentions.

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS

- 1 Chagall
- 5 Tenth
- 10 Pops
- 14 Third man
- 15 Nile dam
- 16 Seed covering
- 17 — contenders
- 18 Tartan
- 19 Pleasant
- 20 Hit, old style
- 22 Listed
- 24 Cagney-Raft film
- 27 Hebrides island
- 28 Andes ruminant
- 32 African plant
- 35 TV actor, Greg
- 39 Sty resident
- 40 Glenn Miller hit
- 43 Unit
- 44 Leave in the lurch
- 45 Border lake
- 46 Physicist Enrico
- 48 Function
- 50 Taking place in the morning
- 57 Mental labor
- 60 Excessively
- 61 A Chaplin
- 62 Take up again
- 65 Bridge seat
- 66 Use the natorium
- 67 La —, Milan
- 68 — machine
- 69 Punta del —
- 70 Element of a moral code
- 71 Name in electronics

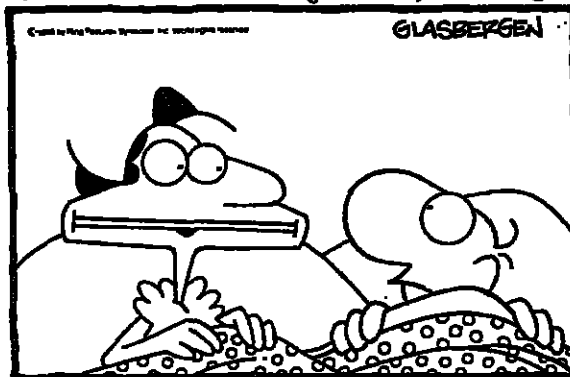
DOWN

- 1 Parsonage
- 2 Large snake
- 3 Souvenir
- 4 Haberdasher
- 5 Faucet
- 6 Map abbr.
- 7 Clemens
- 8 West Indies country
- 9 Over
- 10 Boone
- 11 Tempe's state: abbr.
- 12 Where snake eyes appear
- 13 Luge
- 21 Tokyo, once
- 23 A.A. —
- 25 "— of robins in her hair"
- 26 Hesitate
- 29 On — with (equal to)
- 30 Southern France
- 31 U.S. author, James
- 32 Beginning with
- 33 Crescent-shaped figure
- 34 Lulu
- 36 "This — recording"
- 37 Painting style
- 38 Warmth
- 41 "Of thee —"
- 42 Unnecessary
- 47 Title of respect
- 49 NY school letters
- 51 Succinct
- 52 Build
- 53 Talking bird
- 54 Italian politician, Balbo
- 55 Fire crime
- 56 Dapper
- 57 Medicinal amount
- 58 Uses oars
- 59 Entity
- 63 Yale student
- 64 U.S. Army figure

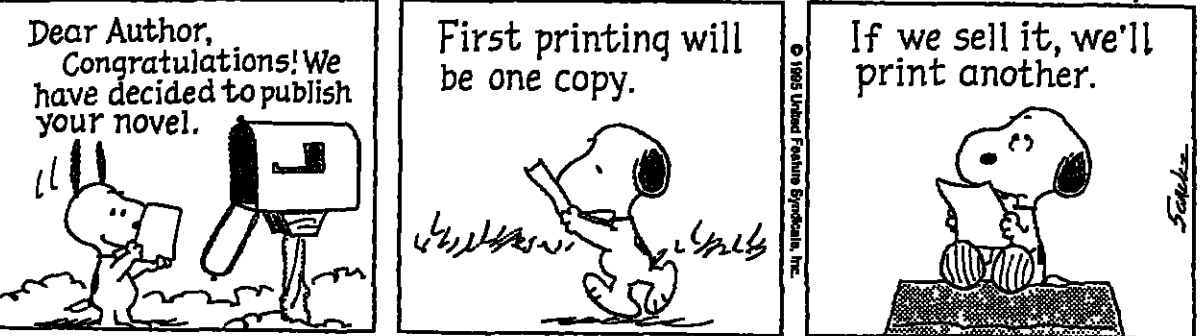
Yesterday's puzzle solved:

MATCH CHIT NASH
ACARE LADE OBOE
ELMER ARIA TROD
UPWARD MOBILITY
STE TARE
GAS GAL GRANDE
ISH PACER USE UP
SLOW ON THE UPTAKE
MORAL HAUNT LEE
OUTLAW RPM ESS
KNEE NASH
UPSIDE DOWN CAKE
PEON DINE AGATE
TORT ENOS RANTS
ONTO DART FREAK

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Garner the data you need during the day today which can make your existence more as you want it to be, and later tonight seek advice.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Complete arrangements for a plan you have in the morning today. In the afternoon, you can start putting it in operation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Home ties and close friends can easily be persuaded to assist you today in gaining personal desires, then you can do the career activities connected to them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go to the influential person you know at this time and gain advice how best to utilise your finest talents towards being successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study worldly desires well and then make fine plans today to gain them. A new contact can give you fine ideas for completing some important project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Listen to the ideas of your mate at this time so that there can be greater accord between you. Concentrate on the practical.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This morning is best for making new deals with associate so that later today you can complete the actual tasks required of you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more energetic about handling your career activities and they become more profitable and valuable to you at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study the new plan you made over the weekend for more good angles to add to it, then put it in motion and you will be very successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan today how to make your home more charming and later tonight talk your ideas over with your loved ones. Invite friends in for a good time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study how to become more successful today and get into practical activities connected with such. Answer any correspondence which comes your direction.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get expert advice concerning money and property in the morning today before you make any investments. Complete tasks you are given.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

Credit card debt explosion in U.S. pushes more consumers to edge

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Lured by offers of cheap credit and ever-expanding choice, increasing numbers of Americans face problems of default and bankruptcy as they exploit their credit cards for all they are worth — and often more.

The mushrooming of credit card debt, some of it from cardholders with a risky credit history, has prompted warnings from the Federal Reserve (Fed), private economists and a major financial rating service.

Personal bankruptcy filings in the United States hit 220,000 in the second quarter of 1995, a rise of 10 per cent from a year earlier, according to court figures.

U.S. credit card debt has reached \$195 billion, up 21

per cent from a year earlier, according to industry figures.

Meanwhile, uncollectable debt write-offs rose to 4.27 per cent in September of total debt, the highest since June 1994, Moody's Investors Service said.

"There is presently no indication of a slowdown in consumer credit card spending even as credit quality shows signs of deterioration," said Moody's analyst Edward Bankole.

Mr. Bankole said that U.S. consumers are saddling themselves with more debt while "real wages have been stagnant for some time."

Often they are lured by offers from banks of cards with low interest rates of six to eight per cent, but only for a short period before rates

jump to 18 per cent or higher.

Easy credit through cards is not just a U.S. phenomenon. Visa International last week reported double-digit growth in both card volume and number of cards. It said three-month card payments by both debit and credit cards rose to \$194 billion in the second quarter, with sharp growth in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

In the United States, banks are offering cards to some customers with a doubtful credit history because of a dogfight for customers.

"Banks are trying to defend their market share," Mr. Bankole said.

Visa's David Brancoli said debt trends go up and down, adding: "It's not time to push the alarm button."

But the U.S. Federal Reserve warned banks earlier this year to pay closer attention to consumer lending risks.

"If we were to see a worsening of the economy, loan defaults could soar,"

Riyadh says no contracts until U.K. curbs opposition — report

LONDON (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has told the British government last week it will award no further contracts to British firms until London controls Saudi opposition movements operating in Britain, the Sunday Times reported.

Quoting industrial sources, the paper said the Saudi decision, which had the backing of the ruling King Fahd, could cost British industry billions of pounds.

Deals threatened include the sale of 800 combat vehicles, including Challenger 2 tanks, worth £3 billion (\$4.5 billion), and the delivery of 10 regional airliners worth £160 million (\$250 million), the Sunday Times said.

A Foreign Office spokesman quoted by the paper said he was not aware of the Saudi move, but in any case he would not comment on government-to-government communications.

homebound and can't shop outside," Mr. Perry said. "It's so easy even if they're infirm. You don't have to walk to the store anymore to get into debt."

He said another factor is the aggressiveness of banks in marketing cards, saying: "I've been on beach in my bathing suit and seen credit card companies handing out applications."

The lure of credit cards, particularly ahead of the Christmas season, is particularly seductive, says Mr. Perry.

"If you don't have the means (for shopping purchases) it's a pretty tough temptation to resist," he said.

"We see people who are

Daily

Prices of broilers plummet but prices of table eggs rise

★ ★ LOW PRICES for chicken are forcing poultry farmers to sell broilers at prices even below those announced by the Ministry of Supply. "We are suffering from large losses daily and I don't know until when we will continue to incur these losses," said Youssef Al Ajlouni, owner of a poultry farm. The farmers, accusing the private sector of importing large quantities of frozen chicken, are demanding the intervention of the ministry to rescue them by not allowing imports. They say they are ready to supply the local market with its daily requirements of broilers without the need for imports.

An official source at the ministry denied any relation between low prices for broilers and imports of frozen chicken. He recalled that under a cabinet decision last summer, the ministry stopped importing frozen chicken and opened the door for the private sector to undertake such activities. However, the official said, the private sector had not imported any amount since then, as 50 per cent customs levy were imposed on frozen chicken imports to protect local production.

The source pointed out that Jordan's actual consumption of broilers was between 7,500 and 8,000 tonnes but production had been higher by about 500 tonnes as actual production last November had been about 8,300 tonnes.

The ministry official also denied any relation between higher prices of table eggs and rumours that large amounts are being exported. He explained that the export prices requires recommendations from the ministries of supply and agriculture none of which had made any such move.

Prices, he clarified, are derived from the market itself and are subject to revision whenever changes in production and farm prices take place. As such, lower prices are subject to forces of supply and demand without any interference from the Ministry of Supply, which takes the role of announcing the price and not fixing it.

The main reason for the rise in prices to JD 1.550 per a 30-egg carton is due to shortage of supply compared to the previous period, the official said, pointing out that the Kingdom's current production is between 57 million and 58 million eggs per month whereas the need is for 65 million eggs. The drop in supply was attributed by the source to many farmers refraining from growing commercial layers as a result of large losses incurred in the past when eggs were sold for less than JD 1.200. Those farmers who quit the business of commercial layers have moved to grow broilers and, as such, the situation has changed with prices of eggs going up and prices of broilers plummeting (Al Dustour).

Inspectors fine 24,115 merchants for price and quality violations

★ ★ SINCE THE beginning of the year and until the end of October, Ministry of Supply inspectors fined 24,115 merchants for price and quality violations. The number is 96 per cent more than the corresponding period of 1994 when the number of merchants fined stood at 12,306 (Al Ra'i).

Most shoppers at Safeway earn between JD 200 and JD 500 per month

★ ★ ABOUT 65 per cent of all who shop at Safeway earn between JD 200 and JD 500 while the remaining 35 per cent belong to other social classes. This information, compiled from figures provided by those who have "golden cards," described the 65 per cent as being "the middle class of the consumers." According to Azzam Al Masri, Safeway's general manager, 40 per cent of the modernisation, change and improvement ideas came from customers, through the suggestion box, while 60 per cent of the ideas are those of the management. Mr. Masri said Safeway will open a branch towards the end of 1996 on the road to the airport on a 4,000 square metre area. Another branch will be opened in eastern Amman at the end of 1997, in line with studies on topographic distribution of the residents (Al Aswat).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 27—December 1, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated sharply against the mark and sterling last week, while depreciating marginally against the yen. It ended the week 1.79 per cent higher against the mark, 1.86 per cent higher against sterling, and 0.31 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar rose sharply against the mark Monday, while appreciating marginally against the yen and sterling. Reports indicated that expectations that the Bundesbank might ease its monetary policy during its council meeting the following Thursday prompted dealers to liquidate long mark positions.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against sterling Tuesday, while depreciating against the mark and the yen. It fell against the mark as expectations that the Bundesbank might lower German interest rates the following Thursday eased. Meanwhile, the yen rose as Japanese investors repatriated part of their foreign investments to Japan before the end of the year.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Wednesday. Expectations that the Bundesbank and the Bank of England might ease their monetary policies soon continued to influence the market. The mark and sterling fell as dealers adjusted their positions to reflect these expectations.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against other major currencies Thursday. The dollar benefited from positive comments by U.S. officials, which indicated that the budget dispute may be resolved before Dec. 15. Political and economic instability in some European countries, especially France, also lent support to the dollar. Meanwhile, the Bundesbank left its monetary policy unchanged. However, analysts indicated that market participants continued to believe that the Bundesbank will ease its monetary policy before the end of the year. As such, exchange rates continued to reflect these expectations.

The dollar retreated against the mark and the yen at the end of the week, while stabilising against sterling. It lost ground as dealers took their profits from its recent rise. Reports indicated that profit-taking operations emerged when the dollar failed to hold to the 1.45 mark level, its highest level for the past 10 weeks.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4457 marks, 101.19 yen and at \$1.5310 to the pound.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Nov. 24 - 1995	Nov. 24 - 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5600	1.5310	(1.86) %
Deutsche Mark	1.4198	1.4457	(1.79) %
Swiss Franc	1.1450	1.1775	(2.76) %
French Franc	4.8785	4.9980	(2.39) %
Japanese Yen	101.50	101.79	0.31 %

* 100 Yen per USD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	Nov. 24 - 1995	Nov. 24 - 1995	Dec. 1 - 1995
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.87	6.06
Sterling Pound	6.64	6.44	6.62
Deutsche Mark	3.82	3.68	4.08
Swiss Franc	2.00	1.81	2.12
French Franc	5.06	5.06	6.31
Japanese Yen	0.28	0.50	0.38

Interbank bid rates for currencies exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.0825	1.0879
Deutsche Mark	0.4891	0.4915
Swiss Franc	0.6010	0.6040
French Franc	0.1417	0.1424
Japanese Yen*	0.6989	0.7024
Dutch Guilder	0.4363	0.4385
Swedish Krona	-	-
Italian Lira*	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	-	-

* Per 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN 585121

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 03/12/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIG	1540	145355	228.000	227.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10500	452350	4.320	4.300
BANK OF JORDAN	1300	4600	3.600	3.600
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	187	456	2.450	2.450
THE ROYAL BANK	500	2193	4.230	4.400
JORDAN CULP BANK	900	3936	4.300	4.100
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2375	8034	3.400	3.400
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	200	611	3.200	3.200
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	35292	31407	0.910	0.890
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	526	2729	5.400	5.250
BANKS SECTOR	55163	244995	INDEX NUMBER: 180.50	CHANGE: -0.49%
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	350	1330	4.200	4.400
INSURANCE SECTOR	350	1520	INDEX NUMBER: 129.31	CHANGE: -0.43%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17352	27600	1.600	1.600
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT	5550	9634	1.750	1.750
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	537	519	0.940	0.910
UNIFRU HOLDING EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	1500	3132	2.100	2.050
NAHAY INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	450	1440	3.200	3.200
SARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1000	1170	1.100	1.170
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	1250	1100	0.950	0.950
SERVICES SECTOR	27639	44682	INDEX NUMBER: 123.17	CHANGE: -0.35%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1818	6332	3.400	3.480
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3000	8700	2.900	2.900
THE ARAB PETROLEUM	2000	9640	4.820	4.820
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	489	4413	9.040	9.080
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1618	5837	4.260	4.220
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1100	6609	6.000	6.000
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	130	787	6.250	6.250
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	1000	5172	5.200	5.170
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	19106	11259	0.600	0.590
ARAB TRADING & TRADING	11350	15477	1.350	1.350
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1650	1601	0.900	0.970
JORDAN ROCKWOL INDUSTRIES	13600	34427	0.990	1.020
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150	420	2.800	2.800
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1050	1260	1.200	1.200
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	500	855	1.710	1.710
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1700	4933	2.540	2.900
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2450	4197	1.720	1.720
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	9200	12855	1.290	1.410
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1654	7641	4.600	4.310
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	5000	9200	1.670	1.600
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	103247	152067	INDEX NUMBER: 117.26	CHANGE: -0.21%
GRAND TOTAL	186399	443274	INDEX NUMBER: 149.75	CHANGE: -0.36%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	115693			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	102039			

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Riley sets 2nd world record Liu breaks world butterfly mark

REO DE JANEIRO (R) — Samantha Riley of Australia set a second world record and China's Liu Limin broke another world mark at the World Swimming Short Course Championships on Saturday.

Riley, 23, shattered the women's 100 metres breaststroke record, winning in 1:05.70. Dai Guohong of China set the previous record of 1:06.58 in 1993 at the first world short course championships in Mallorca.

Riley, who won the 200 metres breaststroke on Friday in a world record, led from the start with a surging stroke and sped away from

the field on the last length. Second place went to Elena Makarova of Ukraine in 1:07.78.

Riley told reporters: "When Guohong set the record two years ago I thought 'how can anyone go that fast?' It's a mystery to me how I could go as fast as I did today."

China's Liu came from behind to win the women's 100 metres butterfly by the thin margin of margins in 58.68 seconds. She was one of three swimmers to finish below the world record of 58.77 set by Angela Kennedy of Australia in February.

Liu was fourth at the 50

metres mark with a 27.99 split time as Kennedy led the field, but roared back on the last lap for the win.

"I'm very happy, and I was a bit lucky. I think I can go faster," Liu said.

Second place went to Susan O'Neill of Australia in 58.69, just 0.01 seconds behind Liu. Kennedy was third in 58.74.

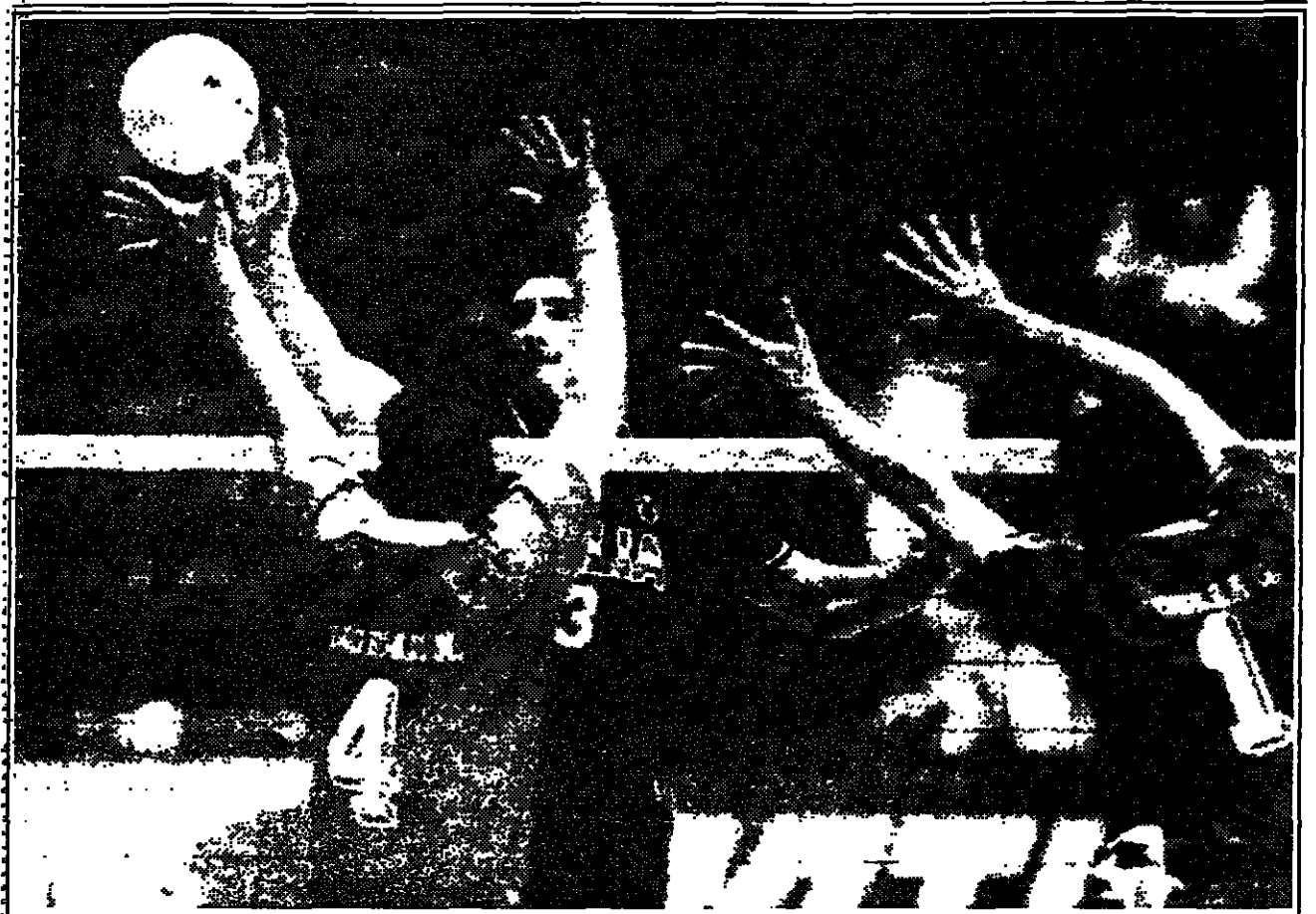
Costa Rica's Claudia Poll, who took the women's 200 metres freestyle on Friday in a world record, won the 400 metres freestyle in a meeting record 4:05.18. The previous record of 4:05.62 was set by Janet Evans of the United

States at the 1993 championships.

Second place went to the Netherlands Carla Geurts in 4:06.20. Britain's Sarah Hardcastle was third in 4:07.20.

Wang Yiwu became the first Chinese man to win a world swimming championship by taking the 200 metres breaststroke in 2:11.11. Ryan Mitchell of Australia was second in 2:11.46.

Fernando Scherer of Brazil spoiled teammate Gustavo Borges's 23rd birthday by winning the men's 100 metres freestyle in 47.97. Borges was second in 48.00.



Italy's Pasquale Gravia (centre) shows a feint play as Tunisia's Mohamed Baghdad (left) and Ghazi Koubaa try to block the ball in a final match of the men's World Cup Volleyball in Tokyo on Saturday. Italy beat Tunisia

15-5, 15-5, 15-9 and won the 12-nation World Cup at an undefeated 11-0 record. Italy took ticket for the next year's Atlanta Olympics with the Netherlands and Brazil (Reuters photo)



Yevgeny Kafelnikov

U.S. win 31st Davis Cup

MOSCOW (R) — The United States won the Davis Cup for the 31st time on Sunday when Pete Sampras beat Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets to give his team an unassailable 3-1 lead in the final.

Sampras, who was carried off court with a crippling cramp after beating Andrei Chesnokov in a five-set thriller on Friday, served ace after ace as he crushed Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 in one minute over

two hours.

For the Russians, it was their second home defeat in the final in successive years.

After Sampras had served the winning ace in the third set tiebreaker, his team mates, including the injured Andre Agassi, poured on to the court to congratulate him.

World number one Sampras, who helped the U.S. to win the doubles on Saturday, threw his arms around cap-

tain Tom Gullikson's shoulders.

Sampras had things all his own way in the first set, breaking Kafelnikov's service twice to take it in just 24 minutes.

The second set lasted 39 minutes but brought little more respite for Kafelnikov whose tortured expression conveyed his anguish.

The only break of serve came in the fifth game.

ENGLISH SOCCER Cole wide of the mark as United slip up

LONDON (AFP) — Andy Cole was the culprit as Manchester United failed to make significant ground on leaders Newcastle after being held to a 1-1 draw by injury-hit Chelsea at Old Trafford.

Seven million pound Cole, who has been under fire after scoring just three goals all season, was substituted soon after he sidefooted wide of a near-open goal from just a couple of yards when Lee Sharpe set him up for the winner in the 67th minute.

He was replaced by the promising Terry Cooke, but it was too late for a United side also at half-strength, with inspirational winger Ryan Giggs most missed.

The Londoners have lost only twice in their last 21 visits to United and looked poised for a shock victory after England star Dennis Wise put them into a 53rd-minute lead.

It took a superb flighted chip in the 61st-minute from youngster David Beckham to preserve even a point which is a huge boost for Cole's old club Newcastle, now four points clear before Sunday's game at Wimbledon.

Afterwards United captain Steve Bruce joined the long list of Old Trafford colleagues currently springing to Cole's defence.

"He just needs a goal and then he can go on one of those sprees we all know he is capable of," said Bruce.

"At the moment it's just not falling for him but hopefully that will change sooner rather than later. He's getting into the positions and I'm sure it will turn for him," he added.

England striker Alan Shearer was the inspiration as champions Blackburn rediscovered the home form which saw them hammer Nottingham Forest 7-0 in their previous Ewood Park clash by beating West Ham 4-2.

Premiership topscorer Shearer again led the scoring with his third hat-trick of the season — taking his tally to 21 — and Mike Newell grabbed the other.

West Ham salvaged a little respectability through Julian Dicks' penalty and a late strike from former Blackburn star Robbie Slater.

Shearer's hat-trick took his Blackburn goal tally to 114 in less than three-and-a-half seasons and Blackburn boss Ray Harford was at a loss to describe his value to the side.

"It's up to you fellows to find words to describe him. When you have worked with him for as long as we have, you know how good he is. I am just delighted he plays for us and no one else," he said.

Manchester City, whose run of 10 points out of the last 12, clinched the manager of the month award for boss Alan Ball, continued their revival by inflicting Leeds' third home defeat of the season.

Gerry Creaney's 60th-minute header sealed City's first away win in eight months after German striker Uwe Rosler hit the bar in the first half.

Ball said his players had earned him his award, adding that he is looking forward to the confrontation between his brilliant midfielder Georgi Kinkladze and Middlesbrough's Brazilian maestro Juninho.

none of that. After all, the Law of Total Tricks states that with 11 trumps in the combined hands, the contract should be played, not defended, at the five-level.

West led the four of diamonds and the jack was covered by the queen and taken with the king. Declarer was looking at two spade losers and a diamond and, unless diamonds split evenly, there was no way the contract was getting home. So after winning the first trick declarer drew trumps, then led a diamond to the ace. When West showed out, declarer could not avoid losing three tricks — down one.

Master Oats dope-tested after flop

LONDON (R) — Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Master Oats was dope-tested after being pulled up in his seasonal comeback race at Cheltenham on Saturday.

Master Oats, partnered by Jamie Osborne, appeared as if he could pick up eventual winner Grange Brake at any time.

But suddenly on the home turn Osborne sent out distress signals as he pushed Master Oats along. A sloppy jump by the gelding five fences out sealed his fate and he only managed to clamber over the next fence before dramatically pulling up.

Osborne said: "He gave me the feel of a Gold Cup winner for a circuit, going through the mud like no other horse I have ridden but turning for home the engine just stopped running."

The stewards ordered Master Oats to be routine dope-tested and interviewed trainer Kim Bailey's assistant Eddie Hales who could offer no explanation for the dismal showing.

Hales said afterwards: "He's blowing abnormally hard and that's just not him as I know this horse inside out and there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with him."

Trainer Kim Bailey, who was at Sandown, said: "I was very happy with him down the far side but he was gone in two strides. He has possibly burst (a blood vessel) but I have not spoken to Jamie Osborne."

"He was in great form before the race but they do let you down occasionally."

Master Oats was taken out of the December 26 King George VI Chase betting by the big bookmakers but remains 5-1 favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup next March.

At Sandown, Richard Dunwoody produced a masterful display of race riding to register a 244-1 four-timer that included his 1,300th victory in Britain.

Kjus wins season's first super-giant slalom

VAIL, Colorado (R) — Lasse Kjus' long quest for a World Cup victory finally ended when he won the season's first super-giant slalom race on Saturday.

After four second-place finishes this season and eight in his career, the stoic Norwegian posted a time of one minute, 34.15 seconds, they waited anxiously to see if his time would hold up.

The closest anyone could come was the 1:34.44 by Richard Kroell of Austria. Pietro Vitalini of Italy was a surprise third in 1:34.50.

Patrik Jaerbyn and Fredrik Nyberg, both of Sweden, completed a big day for Scandinavians, taking fourth and fifth.

Kjus showed no nerves on the course, but was a bundle of anxiety in the Finish Corral.

"I feel sick. I can't stand the waiting," said Kjus, who had to withstand waiting for nearly everyone to finish the course, which provided impeccable conditions to give even the last starter a chance at a winning time.

"I can't believe it finally

happened," said the taciturn Kjus.

"I felt sick from the waiting. It was terrible, with so many people coming so close behind me," he said.

Considering the remarkable quality of his skiing in this early North American phase of the World Cup schedule, it seemed inevitable that Kjus would win soon. But, until now, something always happened to deny him, as it had throughout his seven seasons.

Saturday, no one could beat his strong, resourceful, trip down a perfectly prepared course under bright sunshine.

"I skied aggressively. I took some chances. I didn't want to be second again," Kjus said.

Not only does he have that first victory, but his lead is growing in the overall standings as well.

Kjus has 465 points in his bid for skiing's top prize. Runnership Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland, who doesn't race the speed events, fell farther behind at 300.

Most observers believe that, with his ability in all disciplines, Kjus is the overwhelming favourite to become the second Norwegian to win the title, matching his injured teammate, Kjetil Andre Aamodt, who won in 1994.

Even though he hadn't won a World Cup, Kjus is no stranger to success.

He has both Olympic and world championship gold medals in combined and already is well loved by his ski-crazy countrymen.

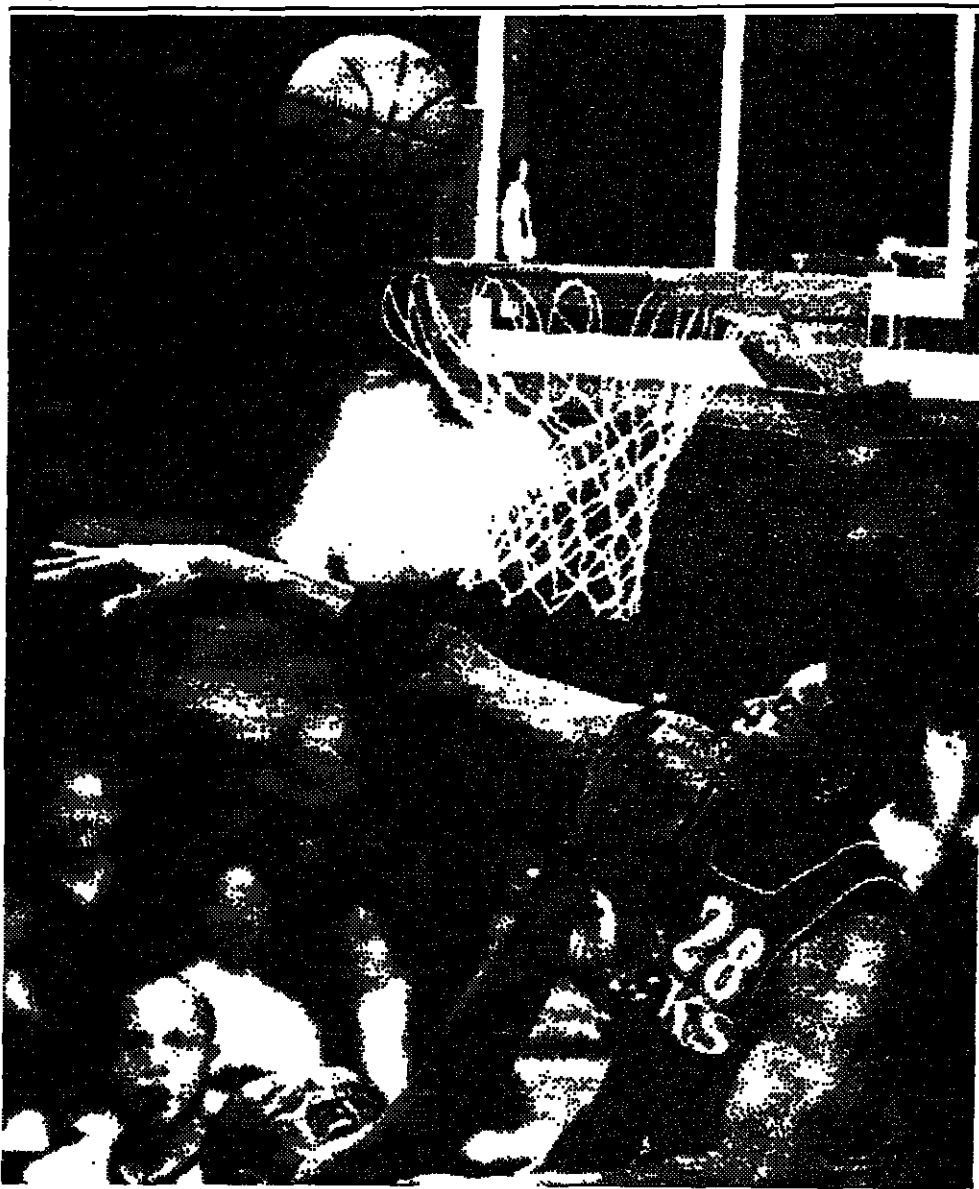
"Now everyone will recognize me and I don't like that," Kjus said.

Kroell and Vitalini overcame recent injuries to attain their medals.

Kroell was hurt while training at Vail less than two weeks ago, and spent a week in bed to recuperate from strained back muscles.

Vitalini had an even more serious injury to muscles in both of his legs on August 2, which cost him two months of training.

"I didn't expect the top three at all," the Italian said.



Atlanta Hawks' Andrew Lang (right) fails to reject a shot by Detroit Pistons' Terry Mills (left), as Mills' shot drops in for two, during the NBA game at the Palace (Reuters photo)

Rockets end slump by beating Hornets

HOUSTON (R) — Clyde Drexler scored 19 of his season-high 41 points in the second quarter as the Houston Rockets ended a slump with a 113-98 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Saturday.

Drexler shot 8-of-8 from the field in the second period as the Rockets expanded a five-point lead to 62-52 at halftime. He added 10 points in the third quarter, when Houston built its lead to 15 points.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 19 points and Sam Cassell added 17 for the Rockets, who had dropped three of their previous four games.

In Denver, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had 24 points and nine assists, and Dikembe Mutombo recorded a triple-double to lead the Denver Nuggets to a 109-105 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Mutombo had 22 points, 16 rebounds and 10 blocked shots for his eighth career triple-double for the Nuggets, who have won four of their last five games.

In Detroit, Grant Hill recorded his second career triple-double and Joe Dumars added 19 points off the bench to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 104-96 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Hill had 24 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for the Pistons, who snapped a three-game losing skid. Hill has now the team in assists the last eight games, averaging 7.1 per game in that span.

At New Jersey, Kevin Edwards hit a long jumper to snap a tie with 35 seconds left as the New Jersey Nets overcame a 10-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 79-78, for their third straight win.

In Philadelphia, Anthony Mason scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks handed the Philadelphia 76ers their 10th straight loss, 94-85.

Patrick Ewing received five stitches in the chin but scored 19 points for the Knicks, who snapped a two-game losing streak and won their eighth game in their last nine visits to Philadelphia.

Ewing landed on his chin after toppling over Sixers forward Richard Dumas and left the game in the first quarter. He took five stitches and returned for the second period.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 37 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Sean Elliott, in his first game back from right Achilles tendinitis, added 22 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their third straight win, a 101-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Chuck Person scored 19 points and Avery Johnson had nine assists for San Antonio, which improved to 5-2 at home.

Charles Barkley scored 34 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and rookie Michael Finley added 17 points for Phoenix, which fell to 2-5 on the road.

In Washington, Robert Pack scored 25 points and Chris Webber added 23 as

the Washington Bullets pounded the Boston Celtics, 135-107.

At Golden State, rookie Joe Smith scored 20 points and Rony Seikaly added 19 to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 100-97 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Smith hit four free throws and Chris Mullin added three free throws to spark a decisive 9-0 fourth quarter run which opened a 91-83 lead for Golden State with 2-24 remaining.

In Los Angeles, Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen each scored four points during a tie-breaking 11-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to lift the Chicago Bulls to a 104-98 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The game was played in front of a Los Angeles Franchise-record crowd of 18,321 at the Arrowhead pond in Anaheim.

Jordan had 37 points and 11 rebounds and Pippen added 21 points and 13 boards for the Bulls.

In Sacramento, Brian Grant scored 27 points and Mitch Richmond added 17 as the Sacramento Kings held off a late charge by the Orlando Magic for their fifth straight victory, 109-106.

Tyus Edney scored 14 points and Olden Polynice added 12 and 12 rebounds for Sacramento (12-4).

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMAR HIRSCH
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A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Both vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH	♠ 8	♣ 3	
	♠ 8 8 2	♣ 10 9 8 3	
	♣ 5 7 6 4 3	♠ A Q J 10 9 8 6 2	♠ K 6 4
	♠ A 7 5	SOUTH	
	♠ Void	♠ A 7 4	
WEST	♠ Q 10 9	♠ A 7 4	
	♠ K J 5 3	♠ K 6 2	
		♠ 7 3	

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
10 4 4 0
Pass Pass 50 Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Do not commit yourself to a play until it is absolutely necessary. For example, a finesse that will work at trick one will be just as successful at trick four or, for that matter, trick 12!

After a highly competitive auction, South became declarer at five hearts. South doubled five clubs, expecting to defeat that contract on sheer power. With such a distributional holding, North was having

none of that. After all, the Law of Total Tricks states that with 11 trumps in the combined hands, the contract should be played, not defended, at the five-level.

West led the four of diamonds and the jack was covered by the queen and taken with the king. Declarer was looking at two spade losers and a diamond and, unless diamonds split evenly, there was no way the contract was getting home. So after winning the first trick declarer drew trumps, then led a diamond to the ace. When West showed out, declarer could not avoid losing three tricks — down one.

Look at the difference if declarer withholds dummy's jack of diamonds at the first trick. After winning the king, South draws the outstanding trumps, ruffs a club and ducks a spade. If West wins and returns a diamond, declarer is committed to the finesse. But as the cards lie West has no diamond, and East cannot lead the suit without giving away a trick. Declarer wins the spade return, ruffs the remaining club and then exits with a spade. The defenders now must either yield a ruff-shelf, or else East must lead away from the queen of diamonds. Either way, the diamond loser vanishes.

RESULTS

Detroit	104	Atlanta	96
New Jersey	79	Cleveland	78
New York	94	Philadelphia	85
Washington	135	Boston	107
Houston	113	Charlotte	98
San Antonio	101	Phoenix	93
Denver	109	Minnesota	105
Golden State	100	Indiana	97
Chicago	104	LA Clippers	98
Sacramento	109	Orlando	106

Jordan wants to finish with Bulls

CHICAGO (AFP) — Michael Jordan wants to sign a new three-year contract with the Chicago Bulls that would likely carry him to the end of his National Basketball Association (NBA) career.

Jordan, who guided the Bulls to three NBA titles, leads the league with 29.5 points a game and also averages 5.1 rebounds and 4.6 assists a game. But his contract with Chicago expires after this season.

Jordan, who ended an 18-month retirement in March, told Chicago radio station WMAQ he wants to play until 1999 with the Bulls, but only if coach Phil Jackson and Olympian teammate Scottie Pippen are retained by the Bulls as well.

"I would like to be around here for three more years," Jordan said. "But I would like to see the nucleus of this team stay strong, with Scottie and Phil. Those are important factors. I would like to finish with Pippen and hope-

fully Phil will be around." The Bulls are conducting contract extension talks with Jackson. Pippen has two years remaining on his contract.

Jordan has shown improved form from where he was last year, when he made a late-season comeback that excited fans but enabled the Bulls to reach only the second round in the NBA playoffs.

"I'm feeling pretty good," Jordan said. "I worked out hard last summer, harder than I ever did before because I wanted to have the physical and mental strength and concentration to play an entire season at a high level."

Jordan scored 42 points in the Bulls' opener against Charlotte and had 36 against Dallas last week.

"He's been a big confidence-booster for our players," Jackson said. "With him around, our guys know they don't have to play above their capabilities. He's money in the bank."



Michael Jordan

Bayern score 4 to keep Dortmund under pressure

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich thumped Schalke 4-0 at home on Saturday to keep the pressure on German League leaders Borussia Dortmund in the penultimate round of action before the winter break.

After Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza had given the Bavarians a 1-0 halftime lead, Mehmet Scholl, Christian Nerlinger and Bulgarian Emil Kostadinov finished off the rout in the 54th, 62nd and 84th minutes respectively.

Bayern, who take a 4-1 lead to Portugal's Benfica in

the UEFA Cup third-round second leg on Tuesday, stayed just two points behind reigning champions Dortmund.

Both teams are well aware that there is a major psychological advantage to be gained by starting the two-month mid-season break at the top of Bundesliga.

Dortmund, who meet Glasgow Rangers in the European Champions League on Wednesday, had stretched their lead to five points despite a largely disappointing 3-1 victory over 1860 Munich on Friday.

In next Saturday's last games of the year, the champions will travel Freiburg while Bayern visit struggling Fortuna Dusseldorf.

"It's important that we travel to Lisbon with a positive result," Bayern coach Otto Rehhagel said.

Even at this early stage of the season Bayern and Dortmund seem to be turning the Bundesliga into a two-team race.

A 2-1 victory at home over Uerdingen helped Borussia Moenchengladbach move up one place to third. But the German Cup holders are seven points behind Bayern after 16 matches.

Former east Germans

Hansa Rostock moved up two places, three points further behind, after a 3-0 home defeat of Kaiserslautern.

One of the most remarkable results of the weekend came from relegation-threatened Cologne who won 1-0 at 1993 champions Werder Bremen on Friday to move away from the bottom of the table.

It was the former UEFA Cup finalists' first victory in 13 games. Fortuna Dusseldorf were left to prop up the league after a 3-0 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. They will be not be relishing next week's clash with Bayern.

Iraqi club to face Saudi team in Japan

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi soccer team will play a Saudi Arabian club in the Asian Club Championship in Japan this month, Al Iraq daily newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Iraqi Talaba soccer team is preparing to meet the Saudi Riyadh Club in Japan on December 22, the newspaper said.

It said the teams would meet following the withdrawal of the Kuwaiti's Kadhimia Club.

The paper said the Asian Football Association would meet shortly to discuss the withdrawal of the Kuwaiti Club and the reason for it.

Talaba beat Iran's Bahman Club 2-1 on aggregate in the Asian Championship last month to qualify for the semi-finals.

Iraq were deprived of international contact after United Nations sanctions were imposed after it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Olympic chiefs worry about Nagano traffic

NAGANO (AFP) — International Olympic chiefs expressed concern about traffic jams and the small ice hockey arena after touring venues for the 1998 Winter Games in cash-strapped Nagano on Sunday.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president Marc Hodler said he was generally satisfied with preparations, according to a Japanese official who accompanied the IOC executive board members.

But the Swiss head of the International Ski Federation (FIS), was also quoted as saying that the brand-new ice hockey arena should have more spectators' seats.

The multi-purpose arena, dubbed Big Hat, was completed in March with a capacity of seating up to 10,000, too few for matches involving a "dream team" of North American Hockey League (NHL) stars.

The Nagano organising

committee had originally promised to build a 12,000-seat ice hockey stadium but it has been scaled down. Hodler hoped that the problem should be resolved before the Games open in two years and two months.

But another IOC vice president Kim Un-Yong said the four-story structure was "fantastic" and better than the ice hockey rink at the 1994 Lillehammer Games.

The South Korean sports leader added: "Our concern is how traffic will be controlled during the Games."

Traffic is continually blocked in the centre of the city of 350,000, where each family has two or three cars to make up for public transport limited to buses and a private railway.

The IOC tour came ahead of a four day IOC executive meeting from Monday in the nearby resort of Karuizawa to approve snowboarding as a new addition to the already

bloated 1998 Games programme.

Officials will also be briefed on construction delays in construction of 12 of the 20 venues as inflation has pushed costs way past the initial estimate of 140 billion yen (\$1.4 billion).

"The main infrastructure will be finished despite long delays. But auxiliary projects such as parks might be sacrificed," said 67-year-old former city assemblyman Jichiro Imai.

Imai, who heads a citizen's watchdog group, added: "Expansion of roads leading from the central station has been incomplete. There is the big possibility of major traffic congestion."

The Games operational budget, already hiked from 40 billion yen to 76 billion yen, is threatening to top 100 billion yen amid constraints on its main sources — television money and corporate sponsorships.

Barcelona and Espanyol miss chance

MADRID (R) — Barcelona and local rivals Espanyol handed Atletico Madrid the chance to extend their lead in the Spanish first division on Saturday after complicating matches against what had seemed like easy opponents.

Espanyol lost to a freak goal at bottom-placed Rayo Vallecano, while Barcelona were lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw after being hard pressed at home by lowly Racing Santander.

The results will boost Atletico in Sunday's match at Real Betis.

But the leaders will have taken note of local rivals Real Madrid, who moved to within eight points after crushing Sevilla 4-1, and once again seemed to be candidates for the title after a poor start.

An appalling mistake by goalkeeper Toni Jimenez cost third-placed Espanyol what should have been a straight-forward affair against Rayo Vallecano.

Jimenez held his head in his hands after letting a harmless free-kick from Rayo Vallecano forward Aquino through his legs early in a scrappy game in which Espanyol looked nothing like the team that has won five of seven away games this season.

Espanyol's best chance, late in the match, was wasted by Florin Raducioiu. The Romanian forward, who has recently returned from injury, showed his lack of match-form when he was slow to capitalise on a through-ball that left him with only Rayo goalkeeper Wilfried Agbonavbare to beat.

Espanyol manager Jose Antonio Camacho said that he was not too disappointed with the 1-0 defeat by his old club.

"We did what we could, though of course the result is bad," said Camacho.

Espanyol's local rival Barcelona could hardly manage any better against lowly Racing Santander. What had been billed as revenge for Barcelona's 5-0 humbling at Santander last season ended

with Johan Cruyff's team being hosed from the Camp Nou Stadium by their own fans.

Bosnian striker Meho Kodro put Barcelona ahead midway through the first period, but Racing's Chema equalised just before the break.

Real Madrid, who went 3-0 up in only 15 minutes in last year's game against Sevilla, repeated their dream start and in the process justified coach Jorge Valdano's confidence in picking players from the club's junior teams.

Defender Rafael Alkorta to head a cross with only two minutes on the clock, and shortly afterwards Alvaro Benito celebrated his home debut when he pounced on a mistake in the Sevilla defence.

Benito's teenage colleague Raul Gonzalez combined with veteran Danish playmaker Michael Laudrup to make it three after only 22 minutes, and the same combination struck again after the break.

Sevilla's Gabriel Moya, who received a yellow card for complaining about a possible offside in Gonzalez's first strike, scored his team's only goal.

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Updating and monitoring project schedules, manhour budgets, time sheets, production of progress curves and factors and assist in preparation of progress reports.

Qualifications:

An Engineering degree from a reputable university with 5 years experience in project controls is a must. Good command of the English language, hands-on experience in Primavera (V.5.1 and up), Microsoft Project (V.4.0), Lotus 123 (V.4.0 for Win) and Freelance (V.3.1 and up), together with other necessary software to complete required tasks to the best quality. Should also be familiar with work breakdown structures and associated codes.

Applicants should send a detailed C.V. addressed to the Engineering & Studies Director, P.O. Box 3727, 1686 Nicosia - Cyprus or Fax No. (+357 2) 336701.

Announcement

Entries for the Theory and Practical Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music will be accepted from 9 to 14 December 1995. The practical examination will be held in Amman next spring 1996.

For registration and further information about syllabuses and regulations, please contact the local representative:

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
Jabel Amman, Atiyat Building, Behind the Embassy of Kuwait
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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and Mahmoud Hamdeh ...in
A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt
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EU and U.S. sign covenant for transatlantic relations

MADRID (Agencies) — The United States and the European Union (EU) signed what they described as a historic new covenant on Sunday to guide their relationship into the 21st century.

President Bill Clinton, fighting isolationist tendencies at home, vowed that his country would remain as closely tied to Europe as it was during half a century of cold war.

"Today we are moving beyond talk to action," he said after signing the so-called New Transatlantic Agenda with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, and Jacques Santer, president of the 15-nation block's European Executive Commission.

"Our destiny in America is still linked to Europe," he said.

Underlining his commitment to keeping Washington tied to Europe, Mr. Clinton announced at the same news conference that he had authorized the dispatch of 700 U.S. troops as part of an advance force expected to go into Bosnia early this week.

The documents signed on Sunday after six months of EU-U.S. negotiations encompass cooperation in Bosnia, the Middle East peace process, trade, security, human rights, aid, democracy, health care and crime-fighting among other subjects.

"It's a historic moment for transatlantic relations," said Mr. Santer. "We will lead by example."

"The aim is to show a clear will to act together in the pursuit of common goals," said Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. Clinton wrapped up a successful European tour by putting the final touches to the agreement during two hours of talks with Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Santer.

The core of the summit's agenda was embodied in a detailed plan outlining a series of concrete proposals for joint action to boost trade and cooperation on issues ranging from the fight against drug trafficking to control of waste in the U.N. budget. The leaders also issued a common statement of principles and priorities.

Some of the gloss was taken off Sunday's proceedings by growing signs of divergence over the financing of reconstruction in Bosnia. But nevertheless the positive tone could not have been further from the mood a year earlier when many Europe in the wake of the administration's decision to stop policing the arms embargo on Bosnia.

A series of disputes linked to American unilateralism on trade issues increased fears in Europe that the U.S. was heading into a new phase of isolationism.

It was the unease generated by these tensions that prompted leaders on both sides of the pond to start looking at ways of reinvigorating the relationship and ensure it survived into the 21st century.

Sunday's accord falls well short of the free trade agree-

ment that was cornerstone of proposals to this effect launched by EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the spring.

Even a joint study of a free-trade zone was rejected by the EU's Mediterranean club of protectionist-minded states. Mr. Brittan won a commitment to a study on further reducing and eliminating tariff and other barriers to trade, but there was no firm commitment on when this would be done.

Instead the trade aspects of the action plan focus on a "building block" approach to enhancing the "transatlantic marketplace," setting up structures that can work to overcome obstacles to Europeans doing business in the United States and vice-versa.

The plans call for enhanced mutual recognition of standards, certification and regulatory policy but significantly avoids setting a target date for the conclusion of an agreement covering medical, telecommunications and electrical equipment and new drug products.

There is also a commitment to attempt to negotiate the abolition of tariffs and trade barriers on all information technology products and to achieve global liberalisation in telecommunications and maritime services.

Notable non-trade goals in the plan include the creation of a joint task force to work on an early warning system that would improve global tracking of mutations and variations in killer viruses, like HIV or Ebola.

Mahdi: Regime must admit failure

CAIRO (R) — Former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said in an interview published on Sunday that the Sudanese government must admit failure and call a national constitutional conference of all political forces.

Dr. Mahdi told the Arabic-language international newspaper Al Hayat that this was the only peaceful way out of the country's economic and political problems.

The former prime minister, who lives in Khartoum under house arrest, said relations between the government and its domestic opponents were now at rock bottom and talk of reconciliation was nonsense.

"The truth of the matter is today there is no entente or reconciliation... relations between us and them are the worst possible," he said.

Dr. Mahdi, who was thrown out of office when the present military-backed rul-

ers seized power in 1989, said opponents of the government had three options: 8 foreign pressure and military action, or popular rebellion, or an internal settlement negotiated in the same way as in South Africa, for example.

"I personally want a solution without bloodshed, a Sudanese solution and a solution in which the greatest weight comes from inside the country," he said.

"The only way to a solution is for the regime to meet and announce: 'We took power to solve Sudan's problems by the shortest route possible but we could not do it,'" he said.

The government should then announce it is willing to call the national constitutional conference as a mechanism for democratic change and for a peaceful settlement in southern Sudan, where the government faces an ethnic rebellion.

Dr. Mahdi, the Oxford-educated grandson of Sudan's nineteenth century spiritual leader, has been arrested and interrogated often since the 1989 coup. But at other times, the government has appeared to try and court his backing.

Dr. Mahdi said the Sudanese economy had deteriorated even faster in the last six months than in the previous six years of rule by President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

He said that industry in Khartoum was working at just 12 per cent of capacity and that despite good rains this year's grain harvest would be only 1.5 million tonnes, because of misguided policies on credit and agricultural inputs.

Sorghum is the main grain crop and Sudan produced about three million tonnes of this alone in 1994.

Papandreou fights for life; successors at bay

ATHENS (R) — Likely successors to Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, fighting for his life in hospital, jockeyed for position on Sunday but no one dared make a move to replace Greece's revered first socialist leader.

A Sunday medical bulletin said Mr. Papandreou was in stable condition and doctors were hoping to wean him from life-support systems which have kept him alive for two weeks.

Mr. Papandreou was still unable to breathe fully on his own and getting him off a respirator was "a difficult problem," said hospital spokesman Gregory Skalkas.

Doctors have said taking Mr. Papandreou off the respirator as soon as possible is important to ward off the threat of secondary infections and to try to get his lungs working on their own.

Asked how long Mr. Papandreou could stay on life support, he said: "There is no time limit. There are cases where people have stayed on respirators for weeks, months or even years."

Mr. Papandreou enjoys abiding popularity with much of the centre left in Greece as the man who broke the right's post-war grip on power in 1981 and then poured European Union (EU) subsidies and funds into the neglected countryside.

He was rushed to hospital on Nov. 20 with pneumonia and has been kept alive on life-support systems for his kidneys and lungs for much of the past two weeks.

During most of that time, Mr. Papandreou has been incapacitated with a tube in his

throat preventing him from talking and often requiring heavy sedation because of the discomfort.

Although frail for years after open-heart surgery in 1988, the severity of his illness has thrown the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) he founded in 1974 into confusion because he has steadfastly refused to name a successor.

Doctors at the Onassis heart hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity, have told reporters that even if Mr. Papandreou recovers he will never be able fully to resume official duties.

The remote possibility of a recovery has kept ambitious successors at bay, wheeling and dealing in back rooms, but no one daring to challenge the Socialist party's stricken founder.

"This could go on for weeks," said a diplomat. "No one wants to be remembered as the person who pushed Andreas Papandreou out of politics while he was critically ill in hospital."

Diplomats said that as Mr. Papandreou's hospital stay lengthened, his government risked appearing adrift and leaderless.

"They have big decisions and must unite the party before the next election. It will be difficult with an informal, collective leadership grouping rival camps," another diplomat said.

Fear that the government might appear rudderless has prompted Interior Minister Apostolos Athanassiou Tsouchatzoulis into the limelight — fortunately for dinner companions at the EU summit later this month, he is widely known as "Akis."

Red Cross appeals against 'barbarism'

GENEVA (AFP) — The worldwide Red Cross movement opened Sunday its first conference since the end of the cold war with a solemn plea against a "new wave of barbarism" unleashed by an upsurge of hatred and civil war.

More than 1,000 delegates are in Geneva for the five-day International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, with the dominant theme being the protection of victims — especially civilians — in times of conflict.

"Hatred, which is steadily gaining ground, brings in its wake a plethora of conflicts and a new wave of barbarism," the chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga said.

In opening remarks, he said the gathering was a unique chance for the Red Cross movement to press governments to respect human rights.

"Throughout the International Committee of the Red Cross, the national societies and their federations, it is the victims of conflict, natural disaster, social injustice and exclusion who speak out and address the states," he said.

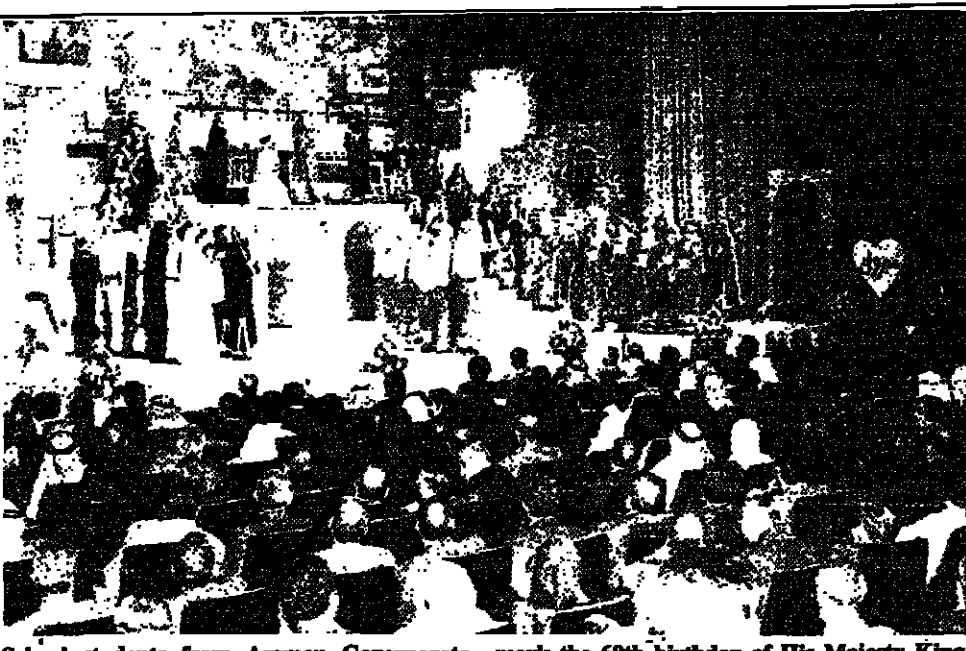
"I should like us to stand by our decisions so that they do not ring hollow for all the victims who are counting on us," he said.

Attending the conference are representatives of more than 100 of the 186 nations that have signed the Geneva conventions.

Celebration

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday attended a special ceremony organised by the Ministry of Education at the Palace of Culture to mark the King's 60th birthday. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh as well as senior officials.

Addressing the celebration, which included songs and poetry recitals performed by students from various schools from Amman Governorate, Mr. Rawabdeh welcomed King Hussein and Queen Noor and said that the



School students from Amman Governorate mark the 60th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein during a celebration held Sunday to King Hussein and Queen Noor (Petra photo)

students wanted to express by words, songs and rhymes the history of

King Hussein and to voice their gratitude for the King for turning Jordan

into an oasis of freedom, security and development.

Israel indicts 3 Jews on sedition charges

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's state prosecutor on Sunday brought sedition charges against a settler rabbi and two other Jews who organised demonstrations against the government over its peace deal with Palestinians.

The three men, leaders of a movement known as Zu Artzenu (this is our land), were charged with eight counts, including sedition, solicitation for illegal gathering and trespassing and solicitation to disrupt police activity.

Demonstrations from August to October by Zu Artzenu, which opposes the government's exchange of land for peace with the Palestinians brought Israel to a standstill, halting traffic along the country's main highways and in principal cities.

The Israeli government vowed to crack down on right-wing Jewish militants following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a month ago by a young religious Jew opposed to handing land to Palestinians under a peace deal.

According to the indictment, Moshe Feigin, Rabbi Benny Alon and Shmuel Sackett incited the public through the media, videos, and tens of thousands of pamphlets "to commit crimes in a planned and systematic way and to disrupt the authorities' task in various ways."

Saying these acts were meant to "break the disobedience barrier of the state's rule of law," the state prosecutor requested that a trial by three judges be held at the earliest possible date.

A court official said the trial might take two or three months to start.

Mr. Feigin, the leader of Zu Artzenu, said it was an obligation to resist the government. "When a person is faced with a government crime, and I insist there is a crime being committed by the government, not only is he allowed to resist but he is obligated to do so," he told Israel's army radio on Sunday. "Passive resistance is accepted in every democracy."

The indictment said the group called for a "civil uprising" in its literature, which spoke of an "evil government" and a "minority government that has lost its legitimacy."

It said the accused did not try to change the government in democratic ways and "their acts meant to disrupt the decision-making process in the public."

It was the first time that this section of the Israeli criminal code has been used against a Jew since the country was founded in 1948. The law, however, has been enforced against Arabs.

A magistrate's court meanwhile extended by four more days the detention of Yigal Amir, who confessed to killing Mr. Rabin.

A police representative told the court there was "new and important information" in the case that required Amir's remand in custody be extended past the usual 30 days police are given to file an indictment.

He did not say what the new information was.

Several other people — like Amir, orthodox Jews in their 20s — have been arrested in connection with the assassination.

"It's all a set-up," Amir told reporters as he entered the court room.

The judge ordered Amir to be quiet, but the religious law student continued, shouting: "In this country we kill people."

The exasperated judge replied: "For the moment, you are the assassin."

"Everything has been set up," Amir said, addressing the journalists. "Why don't you publish that the Rabin (security) agent who yelled 'the bullets are blank, the bullets are blank' has been liquidated."

Amir was apparently referring to testimony from Mr. Rabin's driver, who said Amir yelled the bullets are blank and "it's not real" as he approached the prime minister firing a handgun.

The confessed assassin's statement shocked the courtroom, and the judge ordered quiet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kabariti to attend OIC meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti will leave for the capital of Guinea, Conakry, on Tuesday to attend the 23rd conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), which will be held there Dec. 9-13. The conference will deal with issues of concern to Islamic countries, including the question of Jerusalem and a recent decision by the American Congress calling for moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The conference will also dwell on the Middle East peace process as well as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Sudan rejects dismantling of joint Nile company

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has rejected a decision unilaterally taken by Egypt dissolving a joint company running steamers on the River Nile, a Sudanese government source was quoted Sunday as saying. The independent Al Rai Al Akhar daily cited an official source it did not name as saying the Egyptian decision was illegal. The source said that according to the rules of the joint Nile Valley Navigation Company, the consent of both countries was required to liquidate the company. The source said Sudan had turned down an earlier official request by the Egyptian side to disband the company so as to "maintain fraternal links" between the two nations. Sudan will "resort to legal channels to enforce the provisions of the agreement," the source said. River voyages between Wadi Haifa and Sudan and Aswan in Egypt were halted more than three years ago when Sudan opposed an Egyptian plan to have Egyptian security men escort the steamers.

30 Israeli officers face court martial

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Thirty Israeli officers accused of mistreating soldiers detained in military jails will be court-martialled, army officials said Sunday. Among those accused are Colonel Motti Shimronsky who has been in charge of "military prison number four" for the past three years. The location of the prison was not specified by the officials. The accusations came after military police investigated a report by state radio which broadcast witness accounts of the bad treatment suffered by some military prison inmates and the violation of their rights.

Pray for rain, Iranians told

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Shiite Muslim clergy has urged Iranians to gather in mosques and pray for rain amid a drought which has hit the country in the past months. In a statement published in newspapers here, the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) called on the prayer leaders and student clerics to lead the special prayer. The IPO, dominated by conservative clergymen, is the Islamic regime's main propaganda organ and conducts all of the official political and religious mobilisations in Iran. A lack of sufficient rain and unseasonal warm weather have hit most regions in the country this year jeopardising agricultural products, notably spring harvests. The drought has half-emptied water reservoirs used for irrigation, provoking a possible rationing for next summer mainly in drier regions of the country. The Iranian plateau has been subjected to dry weather for the past three years.

Policeman discovers mother's body in car wreck

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A police officer helping to remove a dead woman from a fiery car crash discovered that the victim was his mother, Kuwaiti newspapers said on Sunday. The officer was taken to the hospital after he collapsed in shock and grief. He had rushed to help after he saw a police patrol at the scene of an accident in which a car had overturned and burst into flames.

Algerian journalist, driver are murdered

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The bodies of an Algerian journalist and his driver who had been stabbed to death were found on Sunday in an Algiers suburb, the government said.

The attack was the first on a journalist in three months and followed the assassinations of two army officers, including a general who was the highest-ranking officer killed in four years of violence by Islamic fundamentalists intent on overthrowing the government.

A security forces statement said Hamid Mahiout, 45, who worked for the French-language independent Liberte daily, and his driver Ahmad Ben Khairallah had been stabbed to death on Saturday night.

More than 50 journalists and media employees have been killed in Algeria since June 1993 when guerrillas accused them of spreading government propaganda about the militants' fight to establish a purist Islamic state.

The killing came as the government of newly-elected President Liamine Zerroual was planning a media campaign to lure grassroots militants away from the hard-core fundamentalist movement by offering clemency and reduced jail sentences if they surrender to the authorities.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence pitting security forces against guerrillas since early 1992 when authorities scrapped a general election which the Islamists were poised to win.

Newspeople and political analysts said the latest killings came as no surprise.

"Well-informed observers knew that as long as armed individuals were still on the run the attacks will continue," the La Tribune newspaper said in a commentary. "For the extremists, it is out of question to lay down arms without achieving the goal of turning Algeria into an Islamist state," the newspaper added.

An Algerian army colonel was shot dead on Saturday in central Algiers in a militant attack, a source close to the Algerian security services said.

He was the second senior army officer killed in the Algerian capital in the past week. Gunmen shot dead

General Mohammed Bouhigane on Monday while he was shopping in the Birmandrie suburb of Algiers, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

The source said the colonel shot back at his attackers, who apparently fled in a car. After the shooting, Algerian security forces and paratroopers encircled a sector of the capital, apparently to catch the killers of storm their hideout, Algiers residents said. The forces later withdrew, they said.

Opposition groups have often accused journalists of collaborating with the regime and Mahiout was the 45th journalist to be murdered since 1993.

Twenty have been shot dead or had their throats cut this year alone and 150 have fled the country altogether, while those who remain take strict security precautions. More than a dozen other workers in the press have also died.

Algerian Interior Minister Mostefa Benmansour denounced the double murder as a "barbaric crime" committed by "the forces of darkness."

The only thing these criminals want is to destabilise the country," he said in a communique.

In another incident, two Latvian sailors were killed Thursday in the Casbah district of the capital and a third was injured.

It had been hoped Mr. Zerroual's election — he won more than 61 per cent of the vote in a massive 75 per cent turnout — would have at least partly legitimised his government in the eyes of the fundamentalists.

The renewed wave of killings came despite his inaugural speech in which he pleaded for dialogue to end the brutal conflict, while last week a militant leader abroad, also called for talks without setting down conditions.

However, the latest murders seem to confirm that the extremists are carrying on the war of attrition by concentrating on symbolic targets such as the army and media.

Mahiout's death coincided with the first anniversary of the murder of Said Mekbel, boss of the daily Le Matin, who was shot in the head near his office.

COLUMN

U.S. doctor who amputated wrong leg suspended

TAMPA, Florida (R) — Florida health authorities have suspended a doctor for six months and fined him \$10,000 for mistakenly cutting off the wrong leg of a patient in a botched amputation. The Florida Board of Medicine also gave Dr. Rolando Sanchez a formal reprimand, imposed two years probation under the supervision of another surgeon, and required him to attend a class in "risk management education," officials said. "The risk management part of the decision is the most appropriate," said Dr. Fred Reddy, a former president of the Hillsborough County Medical Association. Dr. Sanchez's medical licence was already suspended in July after another patient at a different hospital complained he had amputated one of her toes without permission during a foot operation. The wrong-leg amputation, which drew national attention, occurred at Tampa's University Community Hospital last February.

Guard convicted of killing woman for her shoes

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A former university security guard was convicted by a U.S. court of murdering a woman student 11 years ago so he could steal her sneakers and socks. David Dickson Jr., 35, faces a life sentence after being found guilty of second-degree murder. The 20-year-old victim, Deborah Lynn Wilson of Woodbury, New Jersey, was found dead near a campus computer lab at Philadelphia's Drexel University on Nov. 30, 1984. Police were puzzled because the only things missing were Wilson's shoes and socks. Dickson, a guard at the lab, was questioned by police, but the case was in limbo for nearly a decade until police learned that Dickson had been discharged from "military service because he was caught stealing women's shoes. He was arrested in June 1993. This was Dickson's second trial. The first ended in mistrial last spring.

Wounded monkey returns to avenge attack

ADDIS ABABA (R) — A monkey which was shot and wounded by an angry peasant whose crops it destroyed in western Ethiopia returned a fortnight later and attacked the farmer, radio Ethiopia reported Sunday. The farmer was receiving treatment for severe bites, the radio said.

Israeli army hires sex therapists for women soldiers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has for the first time hired sex therapists to help women soldiers in a move which has provoked surprise among the female ranks, the daily Yediot Aharonot reported Sunday. Letters have gone out to all women within the professional ranks inviting "those with problems in their sex lives" to consult a therapist for "advice in offices opened in several barracks. "It is not up to our superiors to be concerned about things like this," commented one woman soldier. But she hoped it was a sign of a more liberal attitude which would lead to the end of a strict ban on relationships between serving soldiers.